

MYSTIC ART RETREATS PRESENTS
A Luxurious Journey

Royal Impressions

YOUR TRAVEL

Itinerary

Small Group Tour - max. 8 people

13 days / 12 nights

29 October - 11 November 22

USD 3500 on twin share

Royal Impressions

INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

All accommodation (12 nights)

All of the accommodation on this tour offers luxury, history, atmosphere and immersion in a very special and fascinating culture. You will experience wonderful hospitality, beautiful settings and great comfort.

Breakfasts, Dinners

Full Breakfast each day (13), Luxury Dinners (12). Lunches are not specified due to difficulty in adhering to schedules in India. Price of lunches would be very modest.

Transfers to/from airport in Delhi

Airport transfers will be included for all dates including from outside the tour dates

Tour Transport

Each day (unless otherwise specified) in a Deluxe Mini Coach or Innova Car with Air Conditioning.

Guides

English-speaking guides provided during tours of cities and attractions, as per itinerary.

Entrance Fees

All pre-paid for all monuments, forts, places of interest, tour activities, and shows etc.

Taxes

All applicable government taxes in India and Nepal

NOT INCLUDED

Airfares and Visas to India are NOT included.

Most airlines do fly in and out of New Delhi so you must choose what suits you.

Gratuities

It is traditional (but not mandatory) to leave an end of tour tip for the driver/guides and any guide or service staff who you wish to tip along the way.

Items of a personal nature

These include laundry, phone calls, drinks, mini bar etc. any medication

Video/camera fees

Some places charge for you to take video, or a camera inside (usually a very small amount)

Lunches / snacks / drinks

Lunches / snacks / alcoholic beverages are not included in the price.

Early check-in or late check-out / non-tour date airport transfers will incur extra charges.

Travel Insurance - IMPORTANT

Your booking with us is dependent on proof of Individual Travel Insurance for both India and Nepal. India does have excellent medical facilities BUT it is wise for you to have appropriate and adequate travel insurance to ensure that transfers and high standards of medical assistance can be accessed, should you need it.



ITINERARY CALENDAR – Locations & highlights

13 days / 12 nights – 29th October'22 – 11th November'22

<p>Royal Jaipur</p> 	<p>DAY 1 <u>DELHI</u> Arrival and Welcome</p> <p>Accom: Aerocity 4* Dinner: Farzi Café</p>	<p>DAY 2 <u>DELHI – JAIPUR</u> Flight to Jaipur Bazaars Heritage Walk Museum of Legacies</p> <p>Accom: Trident Dinner: Baradari</p>	<p>DAY 3 <u>JAIPUR</u> Amber Fort, Nahargarh Fort, Anokhi Textile Museum, Elephant Feeding</p> <p>Accom: Trident Dinner: Trident</p>	<p>DAY 4 <u>JAIPUR</u> City Palace Museum, Palace of Winds (Hawa Mahal)</p> <p>Accom: Trident Dinner: Shikar Bagh & Bar Palladio</p>	<p>DAY 5 <u>JAIPUR</u> Galtaji Temple, The Gem Palace, Indian Institute of Craft & Design lecture by Ekabhumi</p> <p>Accom: Trident Dinner: Ram Bagh Palace</p>
<p>DAY 6 <u>JAIPUR – BAGRU – PUSHKAR – JAIPUR</u> Bagru Block Printing Day Trip to Pushkar Brahma temple, Local Perfumers</p> <p>Accom: Trident Dinner: Jai Mahal Palace</p>	<p>DAY 7 <u>JAIPUR – DELHI – KATHMANDU</u> Flight to Delhi & onwards to Kathmandu</p> <p>Accom: Baber Mahal (KTM) Dinner: Chez Caroline, Baber Mahal Bon Voyage!</p>	<p>Nepal Splendour</p> 	<p>DAY 8 <u>KATHMANDU</u> Patan</p> <p>Accom: Baber Mahal Dinner: The Chimney Restaurant</p>	<p>DAY 9 <u>KATHMANDU</u> Panauti to Namo Buddha</p> <p>Accom: Baber Mahal Dinner: Kathmandu Steak House Restaurant</p>	<p>DAY 10 <u>KATHMANDU</u> Bhaktapur</p> <p>Accom: Baber Mahal Dinner: Mayur Restaurant</p>



<p>DAY 11</p> <p><u>KATHMANDU</u></p> <p>Thamel Pashupatinath Swayambhunath Boudha</p> <p>Accom: Baber Mahal Dinner: Toran Restaurant</p>	<p>DAY 12</p> <p><u>KATHMANDU</u></p> <p>Visits to Nepalese Artist studios, designers, and tea with royalty</p> <p>Accom: Baber Mahal Dinner: Marco Polo Restaurant</p>	<p>DAY 13</p> <p><u>KATHMANDU</u></p> <p>Flight to Onward destinations</p> <p>Bon Voyage!</p>			
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Just pack your bags—we've got you covered! When you're on a Mystic Art Retreats tour, every detail is taken care for you so you can relax and truly experience each moment. Put your wallet away, leave your travel books behind, fold up your maps, and BE there.

Airfare to India is not included in the price of your trip. Please contact your local travel agency or the airlines directly to make any arrangements you may need. If you would like assistance with booking your flights or other travel plans, please contact our co-founder Mukul Purohit who shall personally guide you on every facet of your travel planning.



ITINERARY DETAIL

DAY 1 - Arrive	DELHI	29 October
<p>Accommodation Aerocity (4*)</p> <p>Dinner included</p> 	<p>When you have cleared arrivals and luggage pickup at Delhi Airport, make your way out to the arrivals hall. There you will see one of our representatives with a placard with your name on it. You will then be driven in comfort to the hotel and assisted with the check in process. Dinner and briefing at Farzi Café which is a chic restaurant at Aerocity. Early dinner and night so as to be rested for our morning flight to Jaipur.</p>	
DAY 2	DELHI - JAIPUR	30 October
<p>Accommodation TRIDENT (5*)</p> <p>Breakfast & Dinner included</p>	<p>We fly to our destination Jaipur - the capital city of the princely Indian state of Rajasthan. The picturesque city is awash in pink - the colour associated with hospitality in Rajput culture. Built in 1727 A.D. by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, Jaipur displays a remarkable harmony and architectural splendour. The ancient heart of the Pink City still beats in its fairy-tale palaces, rugged fortresses perched on barren hills and broad avenues that dot the entire city. There is a timeless appeal to Jaipur's colourful bazaars where one can shop for Rajasthani handlooms and trinkets.</p> <p>We shall visit the Museum of Legacies which is housed in a building</p>	





that dates back to 1825, and showcases previously unseen private collections from textiles and jewellery to paintings and sculptures. Beautifully laid out gardens and parks, attractive monuments and marvellous heritage hotels (once the residence of Maharajas), are worth admiration. Not to mention the ambling camels and cheerful people in multi-hued costumes that will make your trip to the pink city a memorable one. Dinner at the City Palace's fine dining restaurant - Baradari.

DAY 3		JAIPUR	31 October
Accommodation TRIDENT Breakfast & Dinner included		<p>After Breakfast we will proceed towards the rocky mountainside for UNESCO world heritage site and a must see of Jaipur - The Amber Fortress. We shall be taking an elephant ride to the fort. The Kachhwaha Rajputs, who reigned for over 800 years began construction of the fort in 1592. Built from pale yellow and pink sandstone, the fortress offers magnificent hilltop views.</p> <p>Following this, we shall visit the beautiful Nahargarh Fort which was built in 1734 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, founder of Jaipur, on the Aravalli hills, as a retreat place. Located in one of the oldest mountain ranges of the world, the Aravalli Hills, this fort gives you a breathtaking view of the scenic surroundings.</p> <p>We shall then proceed to the royal cenotaphs beneath Nahargarh, feel remarkably undiscovered and are an appropriately restful place</p>	





to visit. The stone monuments are beautifully and intricately carved.

Finally, we shall visit the Anokhi textile museum which is a small museum dedicated to the ancient craft of hand block printing. It is housed in a restored UNSECO award winning 400 year old building with a cafe serving fresh organic coffee and contemporary food.

We shall then return to our hotel for a meal.

DAY 4

JAIPUR

01 November

Accommodation

TRIDENT

Breakfast & Dinner included



After breakfast, we will photo-stop outside Water Palace 'Jal Mahal' located in the center of 'Man Sagar Lake' housing various migratory birds and surrounded by 'Aravalli Ranges'. We continue and arrive in the heart of Old City to visit Astronomical Observatory 'Jantar Mantar' where our guide will teach you how its giant instruments work to measure celestial objects.

Followed by visit to residence of the Royal Family locally called Jaipur City Palace and Museum. A complex of courtyards, gardens and buildings, the impressive City Palace is right in the centre of the Old City. The outer wall was built by Jai Singh II, but within it the palace has been enlarged and adapted over the centuries. There are palace buildings from different eras, some dating from the early 20th century. It is a striking blend of Rajasthani and Mughal architecture.

Later, the downtown Jaipur Bazaar for a Tuk-Tuk Tour thru its narrow alleyways. Chaos & amusement goes hand-in-hand here. Inside the bazaar we also visit Jaipur's most distinctive landmark The





Palace of Winds 'Hawa Mahal' built in a unique pink coloured beehive design that is certainly hard to miss. Witness its 958 intricately designed windows that were built for Royal Women to explore city life from a high-rise.

A visit to the boutique Narayan Niwas Palace shops will be followed by a sundowner at the chic Bar Palladio. Dinner at the exquisite restaurant Shikar Bagh owned by the Kanota royals.

DAY 5

JAIPUR

02 November

Accommodation

TRIDENT

Breakfast & Dinner included



We begin an early tour about 10 km from Jaipur to an ancient Hindu temple with sacred springs and reservoirs. Known as the Galtaji Temple, it is surrounded by what is known as the 7 Holy Ponds, and devotees come here to bathe in the waters. The massive temple complex was built in the 15th century, with pink stones, and is set in the lap of the Aravallis.

After lunch, we visit the world famous jewelers - The Gem Palace. This shall be a visual treat to some of the world's finest jewellery. The Gem Palace has stood proud as one of India's iconic jewellery houses for over one hundred and sixty years. The Gem Palace has created heirlooms for emperors, kings, queens, presidents and film stars and continues to cater to the traditional and contemporary needs of jewellery buyers from across the globe. Due to their status as refined objects of art, throughout the years, The Gem Palace jewels have been displayed in exhibitions around the world.



Following this, we shall then visit the Indian Institute of Craft & Design where Ekabhumi shall be delivering a lecture to students and faculty of the institute on Sacred Art.

Evening Dinner with renowned local artists at the beautiful Rambagh Palace, an uber luxury hotel and former residence of the Maharaja of Jaipur.

DAY 6

JAIPUR

03 November

Accommodation

TRIDENT

Breakfast & Dinner included



An early morning breakfast shall be followed by a visit to the world famous village of Bagru - this Rajasthani village has developed a decidedly large influence on the art of Indian block printing and made it into a global design trend. For at least 400 years, Bagru has been home to the Chhipa - a clan who are experts in the textile arts of block printing. The vast communal drying fields that connect the Chhipa Mohalla -the village printers' quarters are a visual treat. The air here is redolent with the fragrance of drying fabric; The ground and the concrete walls are covered in resplendent oranges, blues, and pinks.

Following this, we will drive you to Pushkar which is one of the oldest cities of India. A majestic town located at 510 metres, its surrounded by 'Nag Pahar' aka Snake Mountain built around a sacred Pushkar Lake that is believed to have originated when the creator of universe 'Lord Brahma' accidentally dropped lotus on ground. We will take a walk around the sacred Pushkar Lake to capture local life of pilgrims surrounded by 52 bathing Ghats and hundreds of milky blue temples. Visit 2000 year-old Brahma Temple formed from a curse by Lord Brahma's consort 'Goddess Saraswati'. Afterwards we explore vibrant tribal street markets of Pushkar Bazaar.

We shall also be visiting the erstwhile royal perfumers of Rajasthan who shall give us a demonstration of their attars - handcrafted perfume oils. Evening Dinner at the exquisite Jai Mahal Palace hotel.



Accommodation

BABER MAHAL

Breakfast & Dinner included



Today we check out of our hotel from Jaipur and continue on our onward journey to Nepal. Transiting via New Delhi, we shall be comfortably ushered to our flight to Kathmandu where on arrival we shall be met by Mystic Art Retreats on-the-ground team. We shall then drive to our luxurious hotel - Baber Mahal where we check in. Evening dinner at the hotel with Nepal's most renowned advertising guru who shall talk about his experience in creating nepal's tourism branding and the destination. Evening dinner at the posh French restaurant at Baber Mahal.



Accommodation

BABER MAHAL

Breakfast & Dinner included



South of the Bagmati River that runs through the Kathmandu Valley, Patan was once a separate kingdom, with its own royal family, palace, and culture. Nowadays it's part of Kathmandu's urban sprawl, but it still has a distinct feel, and is less frenetic and congested than central Kathmandu. Patan is home to the indigenous people of the Kathmandu Valley, ethnic Newars, who speak the Tibetan-derived Newari language, and whose crafts and architectural style dominate many traditional parts of Kathmandu. In fact, what many people think of as traditional Nepali architecture is actually Newari. The Patan Durbar Square is an excellent place to see living, working examples of Newari culture at the palaces, temples, and townhouses (some converted into guesthouses) that fill Patan's old town area. The Patan Museum, in the old palace building, offers a stylish and comprehensive introduction to Kathmandu's arts and architecture.

Evening Dinner at the finest



DAY 9

KATHMANDU - PANAUTI - NAMO BUDDHA

06 November
22

Accommodation

BABER MAHAL

Breakfast & Dinner included



On day two, head out into the hills surrounding Kathmandu, just beyond the eastern rim of the Kathmandu Valley, for some hiking.

A day hike between Panauti and Namo Buddha is a good option, as it includes culture, nature, views, and good accommodation at either end (we will have private transfers to drop you off and pick you up either end). Panauti is an old Newari town about 20 miles southeast of Kathmandu. It sits on the confluence of the Roshi and Punyamati Rivers, and has some fine traditional architecture.

From Panauti, the mostly uphill hike to Namo Buddha, 7 miles away, takes you through villages, farmland, and forested areas. Namo Buddha is one of the most important Tibetan Buddhist sites in Nepal, though the stupa there is much smaller and less dramatic than Boudhanath or Swayambhunath in Kathmandu.

DAY 10

KATHMANDU - BHAKTAPUR

07 November
22

Accommodation

BABER MAHAL

Breakfast & Dinner included



In the eastern part of the Kathmandu Valley, 10 miles from the central city, Bhaktapur is another once-separate kingdom exhibiting some of the finest examples of Newari arts, crafts, and architecture in Nepal.

The highlights here revolve around the Bhaktapur Durbar Square and the multi-tiered Nayatapola Temple. Look out especially for the intricately carved Peacock Window at Pujari Math, and Potters' Square, where potters lay out their earthen pots to dry in the sun before firing. Bhaktapur town suffered a lot of damage during the 2015 earthquake, but the larger temples, fortunately were mostly spared.



<p>DAY 11</p>	<p>KATHMANDU</p>	<p>08 November 22</p>
<p>Accommodation BABER MAHAL</p> <p>Breakfast & Dinner included</p> 	<p>Today we shall go on a exploration tour of Kathmandu and be in or around Thamel which is convenient for checking out nearby attractions like the Kathmandu Durbar Square and Swayambhunath Temple. If you visit the Kathmandu Durbar Square you can see how it's similar to, but also different from, the royal complexes at Patan and Bhaktapur. Hilltop Swayambhunath is also highly worth visiting, both for the dramatic golden-spired stupa itself, but also for the sweeping views across Kathmandu.</p> <p>We shall also visit the Pashupatinath Temple and Boudhanath Stupa. Pashupatinath is the holiest Hindu temple in Nepal, and a major pilgrimage site for Nepalis as well as Indian Hindus. Set on the banks of the Bagmati River, Hindus believe it's auspicious to die and be cremated here (much like Varanasi in India), so you'll see cremations happening all the time. Non-Hindus can't enter the temples at Pashupatinath, but they're allowed within the grounds.</p> <p>Boudhanath is the holiest Tibetan Buddhist site outside of Tibet itself. The area around the enormous white dome of Boudhanath Stupa is Kathmandu's Tibetan enclave, where many refugees live. The stupa is an especially atmospheric place to visit at dawn and dusk, when devotees do a kora of the stupa, a clockwise circumambulation, spinning prayer wheels and reciting mantras.</p>	
<p>DAY 12</p>	<p>KATHMANDU - ART & CULTURE DAY</p>	<p>09 November 22</p>
<p>Accommodation BABER MAHAL</p> <p>Breakfast & Dinner included</p>	<p>Today we shall be visiting studios of some of Nepal's most prized artists. We shall meet with them and speak about their works, technique, careers and life stories.</p> <p>Following this, we shall meet with art patrons of Nepal including</p>	





an opportunity to meet royalty. Live music in the evening along with dinner.

DAY 13

KATHMANDU - ONWARD DESTINATIONS

10 November
22

Accommodation
BABER MAHAL

Breakfast included



Check out from the hotel and departure for your onward connections to your international destinations.



Royal Impressions

Local Knowledge

There is simply no substitute for traveling with a knowledgeable insider, and our expert local guides will open doors for you that other travelers miss. Relationships developed over many years allow you to experience our destinations through a well-connected friend.

Weather

WEATHER Temperatures in Jaipur on average in October for a typical day ranges from a high of 92°F (33°C) and a low of 65°F (18°C). Some would describe it as pleasantly warm. There is only a 2% chance of rain in the month.

WEATHER Temperatures in the Kathmandu Valley in October tend to be cool in the mornings and evenings, but heat-up at midday. The driest weather and clearest skies are typically in October and November during the harvest season. Average temperatures expected in Kathmandu during October would be 74/59 degree Fahrenheit.

Food & Water

The general rule for food when traveling to India / Nepal is "wash it, cook it, peel it, or forget it." The well run hotels where we stay and the restaurants where we eat prepare foods in a sanitary manner, using distilled water to wash vegetables, and iodine to kill any bacteria. You should drink bottled water, and avoid ice cubes and frozen drinks if you are unsure of the water used for making the ice. Bottled water is provided by hotels for use when brushing your teeth.

Drinking Water

We provide purified or bottled water on all trips; however, in an effort to reduce waste, we strongly encourage you to bring a water bottle to refill where it is safe to do so.

Cuisine

Rajasthani cuisine is a well-known cuisine in India with some delectable dishes exported even to the international foods scene. We shall be sampling Rajasthani, Mughlai, Contemporary Indian and continental food during the Indian leg of the tour.

Nepalese cuisine is not well-known in the rest of the world. While the food in Nepal is plentiful, healthy, and flavorful, it is not the reason anyone should plan a trip to this country. Kathmandu has a surprising variety of restaurants serving many types of international cuisine. Remember that Nepal is a relaxed culture and service is usually much slower



TRANSPORTATION

All on-tour transportation is provided in private, air conditioned, luxury cars

PACKING LIST

A separate packing list produced by our co-founder Ekabhumi Ellik would be provided that covers all possible items you would need to bring with you on your journey to make it hassle free

