

Capture India



Led by UK Professional Photographer Jamie Maxwell, this 10 day photographic tour is aimed at capturing 'Life in India' at street level; specifically the Holi Festival in 2011.

This diverse tour explores Delhi and the gems of Rajasthan; Jodhpur, Jaipur, Agra and the unique Holi Day Festival in Barsana on the 20th Mar 2011.

After your overnight international flight to Delhi, you will have some time to rest in the afternoon before heading straight out into the hustle and bustle of Chandri Chowk (market) in Old Delhi. Explore this crowded maze of streets and alleyways that is home to the wholesalers.

The following day, you will have a tour of Delhi and this is flexible depending on what the group wishes to do. With the emphasis on street life, you will have plenty of time to people watch particularly at the Railway Station as you wait to board the overnight train to Jodhpur. This sleeper train will take approximately 12 hrs to reach your destination.

Most of the trip takes place in the State of Rajasthan; home of the Maharajas. Traditional and colourful dress and a huge history make this region absolute prime for photographers.

The first of the Rajasthan cities is the 'Blue City' of Jodhpur. It is a wonderful place and the imposing Mehrangarh Fort is one of the best examples in Rajasthan. Part of the final of TV series Master Chef was filmed in this fort for its spectacular back drops. The town also has a thriving market place and plenty of chaotic merchant houses selling piles of material of all qualities.

Your overnight stay is in the Ranbanka Hotel; a classic, historical and very comfortable hotel.

An early morning departure to Jaipur and

another chance to experience the famous Indian railway but this time during the day.

On arrival in Jaipur, you will be met by your own driver and vehicle; he will be driving you for the remainder of the tour.

Jaipur is another City packed with photographic opportunities. Local market and town life co-exists very well with the tourist life that arrives to visit the Amber Fort and the City Palace.

The Mandawa Haveli (your hotel) is very well placed to allow you to wander as you please during your free time.

Whilst visits to the well know tourist attractions are programmed in, you will be free to miss those and explore the extensive local shopping area just minutes from your hotel.

No trip in this region would be complete without visiting Agra. Agra is home to the iconic Taj Mahal and the often overshadowed Red Fort (but equally impressive in our view). You will visit both and at certain times of the day to take advantage of the changing light conditions. You also have time for a little rest and to re-charge your batteries (both human and camera!) before you visit the Holi Festival the next day.

Holi is a special day in the Hindu calendar but in Barsana, it is unique. The history revolves around the Hindi God of Krishna who was a playful character especially with the Ladies. In Barsana, the women chase the men away with sticks. Males sing provocative songs in a

bid to invite the attention of women. Women then go on the offensive and use long staves called 'Lathis' to beat the men folk who protect themselves with shields.

All of this is fuelled (as if it needed fuelling) by a rather intoxicating drink called 'Thandai', which is laced with a paste called Bhang (made of Cannabis). It is not recommended that you drink this!

Great care will be needed at this time with camera equipment but the opportunities to capture this event so close up are irresistible.

At the end of the Festival, you will be driven back to Delhi for your final overnight stay.

Jamie Maxwell

Jamie Maxwell is a freelance professional photographer with extensive experience in the travel, press and commercial worlds.

His portfolio of press clients have included the Daily Telegraph, Mail, Express, the Sun and Mirror. He has supplied material for the commercial giants Sainsbury's, Pepsico and Damone.

A long running affinity with travel photography has seen Jamie working in Tokyo and California.

He loves challenging photography and his expertise will assist you on this diverse trip.



Important Information:

- **Costs** are based on 2 sharing and are per person (singles see below).
- **Dates:** Depart UK Sat 12th March 2011
Depart Delhi Mon 21st March 2011
- **Min Number Required:** 4 clients
- **Passports.** Passports should be valid for a minimum period of 190 days on the date on entry into India.
- **Tourist Visa** is required for UK Nationals. The visa must be obtained prior to travelling. VFSGlobal are the official agent for handling online visas for India. You should visit this link and read the instructions carefully before applying. <http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk/online-app.aspx>
- **International Departure Taxes from Delhi.** From 1st March 2009, there was a INR 1300 tax on departures from Indian International airports. It must be paid in cash and may change at short notice.
- **Luggage allowance.** It will depend on the flight carrier but 20Kg's is not an unrealistic figure to assume for international flights.
- When you book with Travel and Trek, you will receive a set of **comprehensive trekking notes**, an itinerary, clothing and equipment list and much more to help you prepare.
- **Singles.** Travel and Trek does not believe in penalising single travellers unnecessarily. If you are a single traveller and do not request sole occupancy of a room, you will be accommodated with another member of the group of the same sex. If there is an odd number travelling and you happen to be the odd one out then a single supplement will unfortunately have to be applied. As this trip spends a significant number of nights in hotels, it is unfortunately unavoidable. If you do request sole occupancy throughout the trip, the same will apply. The additional cost is £250.
- **Extended Stays.** You are free to extend your stay in India with extra days before or after the trip. Travel and Trek can assist you with accommodation if you wish or you are free to make your own arrangements. If you are there prior to the trip, we will arrange to meet you at the hotel.
- **Clothing and equipment** list will be provided on booking.
- **Medical/Vaccinations.** You should seek professional advice on what vaccinations you require for India and other locations should you have an extended trip.
- **Local Payments.** Travel and Trek does not charge any local payments.
- **Travel Insurance.** It is absolutely vital that you have adequate travel insurance.

Cost: £1170 per person based on a min of 4 clients, twin share.

Should you be one of the earliest to book, we will keep you on hold regarding the international flights until the min number is reached. Once it has, we will suggest the most appropriate flights to ensure that the group arrives at the same time. The flights can then be booked by individuals.

How To Book: Contact Travel and Trek to check availability and then either download a booking form from the website or request one be sent to you. The deposit is £120; the remaining balance due 10 weeks prior to departure (1 Jan 2011).

What's Included in your trip:

Services of a UK professional photographer throughout the trip
International airport (Delhi) pick up and return
All hotel accommodation, twin share, as per the itinerary
Food as shown on the itinerary
Train journey, DEL - Jodhpur, overnight sleeper (air conditioned)*
Train journey, Jodhpur - Jaipur, daytime
Private road transport (appropriate to group size) throughout.
Local, English speaking Guide throughout
Comprehensive Trip Notes and other associated documentation

* These are individual bunks, over 6' long (flat) and include clean blankets and a pillow. Food and tea/coffee is available on board the train.

Excluded:

International flights to Delhi (budget £450, return economy)
International flight departure taxes out of Delhi
Indian tourist visa (must be obtained prior to arrival in India), budget £38
Personal spending
Staff gratuities, advice can be given
Personal travel insurance
Some food, as shown on the itinerary
Entrance fees to sights, ie Taj Mahal*
Camera fees**

* Entrance fees are not included as where and when you go may change (the weather may have an affect).

** These fees are constantly changing.

Daily Itinerary - Capture India

Meal Plan: B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner

Days	Day	Date	Event	Remarks	Overnight Stay	Meals
1	Sat	12-Mar	Depart UK	Evening departure		
2	Sun	13-Mar	Arrive Delhi	Met at airport, transfer to hotel. You have the remainder of the morning to rest and the afternoon is free. In the evening, you will visit the famous Chandri Chowk market area, which is bustling with life. This area is an absolute maze of streets and at night, a blaze of colour and light. You can eat here too and you will be free to roam for a time period to capture what images you can.	DEL, Regency Hotel (3*)	
3	Mon	14-Mar	Tour of Delhi	A long day in store so stock up at breakfast! There are numerous options for the tour that can be discussed but high on the list will be India Gate and some of the historic buildings around the capital. A long lunch will be in order before more opportunities in the afternoon. You can discuss what you will do for the evening meal. It is suggested that you should arrive at the station for your evening train to Jodhpur in good time as this is an excellent opportunity to view life on the railway. The Mandore Express (Train No 2461), departing Delhi at 2045hrs is your air conditioned sleeper train to Jodhpur.	Overnight train	B
4	Tue	15-Mar	Arrive Jodhpur 0800hrs	You will be met at the station and transferred to your hotel for check in, a freshen up and late breakfast. This is a lovely, historic hotel with a nice swimming pool. Once you are ready, it is time to head for the Mehrangarh Fort; probably the best fort in Rajasthan. This huge and imposing structure is extremely well kept and dominates the town (part of the final of Master Chef took place here!). It is well worth walking down into town from here to experience the life and also to go to an excellent material merchant. 7 stories of material from bedspreads to pashminas is a sight to behold. The market in Jodhpur is also an excellent place to wander. By the time is day is done, you will welcome a swim and rest back at the hotel before a relaxing evening meal.	Jodhpur Ranbanka hotel	Late B, D
5/6	Wed/ Thu	16 and 17 Mar	Early departure to Jaipur	An early breakfast and departure for the station for your 0555hrs Inter City Express departure to Jaipur (arriving 1047hrs). As this train is a daytime journey, you will have more opportunities to capture life on the railway (better light conditions). You will be met on arrival and transferred to the lovely Mandawa Haveli hotel. Haveli's are old Merchants houses and subsequently have plenty of character. It is ideally located just a few minutes from the centre of Jaipur, which ultimately allows you to wander if you wish. Over the next two days, you have plenty of time to explore the local area. Amber Fort will be visited on Thu AM leaving the remainder to be fitted in around that. The local tuk tuk's are excellent value and good fun to get around. Despite the tourist attractions that surround Jaipur, this is a good place to see local shops. The places to see here are the Observatory, the Palace and Amber Fort. The Palace of Winds and a few other attractions are also around but the former three are better.	Jaipur Mandawa Haveli	B on depart Jodhpur 1 B and 2 x D in Jaipur

Days	Day	Date	Event	Remarks	Overnight Stay	Meals
7	Fri	18-Mar	Depart for Agra	<p>You are now in your own private road transport for this 4 - 5hrs drive to Agra. Check in to the hotel on arrival.</p> <p>The Taj Mahal is closed on Friday's so you will visit the massive and impressive Red Fort late afternoon/early evening. From here you can see the Taj Mahal across the river.</p> <p>On completion, it is time to have an enjoyable meal on the rooftop restaurant of your hotel.</p>	Agra Howard Park Plaza	B, D
8	Sat	19-Mar	Agra	<p>An early rise is recommended to enter the Taj Mahal as soon as you can. There are few sights in the world can live up to their billing; this is one.</p> <p>Remainder of day at leisure.</p>	Agra Howard Park Plaza	B, D
9	Sun	20-Mar	Barsana and Delhi	<p>An early start for the Holi Festival in Barsana. It will take approx 2 hrs driving.</p> <p>The Holi Festival is colourful enough anywhere in India but Barsana is different! There are additional notes elsewhere in this document.</p> <p>Once you have finished here, it is time to head for Delhi (4 hrs drive). You may choose where to eat for your final night.</p>	DEL Regency Hotel (3*)	B
10	Mon	21-Mar	Delhi	Flight home		B