The Art and Culture of Northern India
November 3-16, 2020
With Elizabeth Hornor, Ingram Senior Director of Education, and Professor Joyce Flueckiger, Department of Religion
Trip cost per person (based on a group of 10 travelers)
- USD $7,530 (shared room)
- Single room supplement: USD $1,800

A nonrefundable deposit of $3,835 is due March 6.

Medical Cancellation Insurance
Medical cancellation insurance will allow you to cancel your trip for medical purposes and will cover the traveler’s immediate family, including parents, siblings, and children who are not traveling.

The cost of medical cancellation insurance is based on age. Purchase is suggested at time of deposit, but must occur within 14 days in order to cover pre-existing conditions. Currie & Co. will provide quotes. Cost is payable by credit card.

Air Travel
- Flights to and from India must be booked by the traveler and are not included in the cost of the trip
- For internal flights (included in the cost of the trip), the checked baggage allowance is 25 kg per person. The cabin baggage allowance is .7 kg per person.

Included in cost of the trip:
- Hotels
- Daily breakfasts, six lunches, and seven dinners (including non-alcoholic beverages)
- Internal flights and travel
- Services of an accompanying English-speaking tour manager
- All tips and gratuities (except tour manager)
- Plane side pick-up and assistance at Delhi International airport
- Mutiny Walk in Delhi
- Diwali celebrations at a private home in Udaipur
- Indian painting atelier in Udaipur
- Monument entrance and camera fees
- Train tickets for Agra/Delhi in Executive Class
- Complimentary bottled water and soft beverages of your choice in all vehicles
- Greeting and assistance at all hotels and airports
- Porterage at all airports and hotels
- All current applicable rates and government taxes

Note: Taxes are subject to change as per government policy.

PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS
Payment Terms*
Bookings:
1. On confirmation, an advance deposit on the cost of land arrangements and funds required to make some necessary purchases such as airline tickets or any hotel/supplier needs an immediate payment to confirm arrangements, etc.
2. Total amount/balance is due/payable 90 days prior to commencement of tour.

Cancellation Terms
In all cases, once a booking has been guaranteed (under authorization of operator) and is cancelled, client/operator is liable to pay for whatever cancellation charges are levied by hotels, airlines and other service providers in that particular booking. Once flight tickets are issued, USD $ 55.00 per person and difference of fare, per sector will be applicable to make any changes.

*Please refer to the terms of service at www.curriecotravels.com.
Tuesday, November 3
Arrive in Delhi

After you exit the aircraft, you will be met and assisted with immigration and collecting your baggage before being transferred to the hotel.

Hotel: Taj Mahal
Room: Deluxe

Wednesday, November 4
Delhi

In the morning you will visit Humayun’s Tomb, a UNESCO heritage site that has undergone a recent renovation thanks to the Agha Khan Trust. Designed by a Persian architect, Emperor Humayun’s mausoleum is one of the earliest examples of a Mughal garden tomb and provided the prototype for future tombs such as the Taj Mahal. As you walk in the Sundar Gardens, you’ll see exquisite pavillions, fountains, and other Mughal structures.

From Humayun’s Tomb you’ll drive along the tree-lined avenues of the New City, which was built by the British. On the drive, you’ll pass the Houses of Parliament, the India Gate War Memorial, and the jewel of this architectural collection—the Rashtrapati Bhavan, once the residence of the Viceroy but now the home of India’s president.

In the afternoon you will visit the National Museum, which houses five millennia of Indian history. Of particular note is the museum’s collection of Indus Valley relics and Central Asian treasures from the silk route, which are considered the finest in the world. The museum also has an exquisite collection of miniature paintings and two notable Qu’rans: one a superb example of elegant Islamic art of calligraphy; the other an 8th-century Qu’ran inscribed in Kufic script, among the oldest of its kind.

Hotel: Taj Mahal
Room: Deluxe
Meals provided: Breakfast, brunch
Thursday, November 5
Delhi

Today you will begin at Agrasen Ki Baoli, a stunning step well thought to have been constructed in the 15th century during the Tughlaq Dynasty. Baoli, or bawdi, is a Hindi and Urdu word that refers to water temples and temple step wells. The earliest record of such a reservoir goes back to ancient times and the Indus Valley civilization. Today the step well is a protected monument.

Your next stop will be the Red Fort, formerly the home of Mughal emperors and the new site of the recently opened war and archaeological museums, which you’ll explore with an historian.

You will have lunch today at Café Lota, which is located in the courtyard of the Crafts Museum, which you’ll visit after lunch. Housed in a building designed by the renowned Indian architect Charles Correa, the museum is a treasure trove of Indian art and architecture. Ranging from metalware and woodwork to masks, painting, terracotta, tribal arts, and textiles, the museum showcases the best of India’s craft heritage. In tree-shaded courtyards, artisans from various parts of India recreate some of the items on view in the museum.

You will also walk along the Mutiny Trail, which narrates the story of the first war of Indian independence, a transitional and turbulent period when the Mughal capitol turned into a battleground overnight.

Next, you will stop at the Jama Masjid, the Friday Mosque, believed to be the largest mosque in India, which dominates the skyline of the Old City, once known as Shahjahanabad. The city of Shah Jahan was designed at a time when divided labor was practiced in India. From the mosque, you’ll explore alleyways and neighborhoods that remain classified by the professions of their inhabitants. You will pass through communities of calligraphers, indigo dyers, silver jewelers, and cooks.

You will then visit Gulab Singh Johrimal—a descendant of the last Mughal perfumers—and sample various fragrances distilled in sandalwood oil. On this walk, you will also pass through Kinari Bazaar, one of Asia’s biggest markets of wedding essentials, with a stop at a beautiful Jain temple and the haveli, or mansion, of the Urdu poet Mirza Ghalib.

Hotel: Taj Mahal
Room: Deluxe
Meals provided: Breakfast, lunch
Friday, November 6
Delhi to Amritsar

You will depart for Amritsar by UK 976 (1:40 PM/2:50 PM). You will be met and transferred to your hotel.

This evening you will visit the Golden Temple when the holy book is ceremoniously returned to its “resting place” for the night.

Hotel: Taj Swarna
Room: Luxury
Meals provided: Breakfast, dinner

Saturday, November 7
Amritsar

You will explore Amritsar today, beginning with the Golden Temple. Sikhs take their name from the word meaning “disciple,” and the Golden Temple is the holiest of all their shrines. Gilded and heavily decorated, the temple is stunning at all times of day. For Sikhs, bathing in the purifying pool is an intensely spiritual experience that all believers should experience at least once. One side of the tank represents 63 Hindu pilgrim places. You will follow in the path of the pilgrims, observing the many rituals such as the mandatory dip in the pool of water.

You will end your visit to the temple in the community kitchen. Sikhs believe that everyone, regardless of their station in life, should do sevāk (social service). This takes the form of the langār (community kitchen) in which every Sikh considers it an honor to serve. You will participate in this ritual, helping to make bread and vats of curry to feed local pilgrims and the underprivileged.

Next, you will stop at Jallianwala Bagh, the site of a memorial to commemorate the victims of the infamous massacre carried out by the British in 1919. The indiscriminate shooting of an unarmed gathering of men, women, and children was ordered by General Dyer on the festival day of Baisakhi. Nearly one thousand people are said to have died that day, with many more injured.

Your next stop will be the newly opened Partition Museum, located in the town hall. The museum, the first of its kind, chronicles the 1947 partition, the division of British India into
India and Pakistan, independent states governed by Hindu and Muslim majorities respectively. The partition resulted in a large and violent displacement of people. The museum tells the story of the displacement through a collection of objects donated by partition survivors. Amritsar has a reputation for an amazing range of street food, and following your visit to the museum, you will take a walking tour of the walled city, also known as Hall Bazaar. The buildings along these streets and narrow lanes feature shops at street level with residences above. Like all Indian markets, this one sell everything from utensils to textiles and clothing such as jutis, the famous embroidered Punjabi shoes.

Dinner will be an authentic Punjabi meal at a local restaurant.

Hotel: Taj Swarna
Room: Luxury
Meals provided: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Sunday, November 8
Amritsar to Agra (via Delhi)

You will depart for Delhi by Air India 118 (09:15 AM/10:30 AM). From the airport you will make the four-hour train journey to Agra, during which you will eat a packed lunch.

Before arriving at the hotel, you will stop at the small but exquisite Tomb of Itmad Ud Daulah and the Mahtab Bagh Gardens to view sunset over the Taj Mahal, far from the crowds that flock to the monument at sunset.

Hotel: ITC Mughal
Room: Mughal Chambers
Meals provided: Breakfast, packed lunch

AGRA
This was the seat of the mighty Mughal empire before its capital shifted to Delhi. Agra is home to some of the Mughals’ most inspired architectural creations such as the Taj Mahal. In the 16th and 17th centuries, when the Mughal courts were at their most powerful and great patrons of the arts, Agra attracted artisans, poets, and musicians from across India as well as Persia and Central Asia, which transformed the city into a cultural and architectural paradise.
Monday, November 9
Agra and Varanasi

This morning you will visit the **Taj Mahal** when it is least crowded. This monument was built by Shah Jahan for his wife Mumtaz Mahal. It took 22 years to build this sublime garden tomb, an image of the Islamic garden of paradise. Its perfect proportions and exquisite craftsmanship were the work of artisans from India and overseas. The Taj Mahal represents the wealth and luxury of Mughal art and architecture.

After breakfast you will visit the city of **Fatehpur Sikri**, which was built by the Mughal emperor Akbar to honor the Sufi saint Salim Chishti, who foretold the birth of Akbar’s son. After the Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri is considered by many to be one of the finest architectural creations of the Mughal empire.

The city is constructed entirely of red sandstone and incorporates architectural features from Hindu, Persian, and Islamic styles. Akbar built a palace for each of his three wives, incorporating elements of their particular religion. Residents eventually deserted the city, and its remains have been perfectly preserved.

You will depart for Varanasi today by Air India flight AI 406 (1:55 PM/4:10 PM). You will be met and transferred to your hotel.

**VARANASI**

Of the seven holy cities of India, Varanasi is considered the holiest of them all, with a spiritual and religious legacy that goes back 5,000 years. It is also the oldest living city in the world. Situated on the banks of the Ganges River, Varanasi is known as Kashi, the city of light. The focal point of the city is the “ghats” or steps leading down to the river. This is where pilgrims and local people gather for a cleansing dip, worship the rising and setting sun, and cremate the dead. It is believed that to be cremated in Varanasi is to escape the cycle of rebirth.
Tuesday, November 10
Varanasi

Your guide will meet you at the hotel at 6:00 AM to visit the Ganges at sunrise, when pilgrims and devotees arrive to worship the rising sun and start the day with a dip in the holy river. From a boat you will watch the young and the old practice rituals unchanged over thousands of years. This extraordinary outpouring of devotion and deep belief should not be missed.

After breakfast, you will take a walking tour of the ghats, starting with the Digpatiya Ghat and ending at the Dashashwamedh Ghat. The ghats are sacred areas built under the patronage of India’s princely states.

Dashashwamedh Ghat, named after the ten-horse sacrifice performed by Lord Brahma, is Varanasi’s holiest spot. From there, you will enter the narrow lanes that lead to the sacred heart of Varanasi—the Kashi Vishwanath Temple. Next to the temple is the 17th-century Jnana Vapi Mosque. The mosque is closed to visitors and the temple is only open to Hindus, but you will be able to view both from an outdoor vantage point.

After lunch, you will visit Sarnath departing the hotel at 10:00 AM. Sarnath lies a short distance from the main city, and is the place where the Buddha delivered his first teaching after gaining enlightenment.

Sarnath has an archaeological park that is home to the remains of a monastery and a Buddhist temple. Paintings on the temple walls depict the most significant episodes of the Buddha’s life from his birth as Prince Siddhartha to his enlightenment.

This evening you will take a boat ride on the Ganges. In contrast to the early mornings when the ghats are a mass of people performing a wide variety of rituals, at sunset the main sounds are the temple bells as the priests start their preparations for the evening aarti ceremony. In the distance you will see the fires of the crematorium as well as a few pilgrims taking a final dip in the river. Though the city retains its liveliness at night, sunset slows and quiets life along the river.

Hotel: Taj Ganges
Room: Deluxe
Meals provided: Breakfast

Wednesday, November 11
Varanasi to Aurangabad (via Hyderabad)

You will transfer to the airport and depart for Aurangabad by Spice Jet SG 705 (10:30 AM/12:25 PM) to Hyderabad, where you will connect with SG 1056 (1:40 PM/2:50 PM). You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel.

Hotel: Vivanta by Taj Aurangabad
Room: Premium Indulgence
Meals provided: Breakfast, lunch, dinner
Thursday, November 12
Aurangabad

In the morning you will drive to the Buddhist, Jain, and Hindu temple caves at Ellora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Located along an ancient trading route, the carvings date to between 600 and 1100 AD. The caves are considered to be among the finest in the country and are thought to be the work of the priests and pilgrims who traveled the route.

Friday, November 13
Mumbai to Udaipur

You will transfer to the airport and depart for Udaipur by Vistara 613 (12:15 PM/1:45 PM) where you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

In the afternoon you’ll experience “small-town India” as you walk through winding lanes, encountering shops selling a variety of items, folk art decorating the walls of houses, and small architectural gems such as a lattice haveli window.

Saturday, November 14
Udaipur

The masterpiece of this complex is the magnificent Kailasnatha Temple. Carved from 85,000 cubic meters of rock and open to the elements, the design and execution of the full temple is an extraordinary achievement, and a tribute to the imagination and the craftsmanship of the artisans who designed and built it.

In the afternoon you will visit Aurangabad Caves, which were cut in the 6th and 7th centuries. These caves can be divided into two groups the western and the eastern, each of which feature superb images of the Buddha as well as delicately carved bodhisattvas.

You will depart for Mumbai by Air India 441 (8:20 PM/9:35 PM), and you will be transferred to your hotel.

Hotel: Taj Santa Cruz
Room: Luxury
Meals provided: Breakfast

Hotel: Trident
Room: Deluxe
Meals provided: Breakfast, dinner

Today is Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. At dusk you will visit the Old City, where homes will be lit with clay lamps and twinkling fairy lights. You will visit a private home to see a puja performed to welcome Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, see fireworks, and enjoy festive dinner.

Hotel: Trident
Room: Deluxe
Meals provided: Breakfast, dinner

After breakfast, you will visit the City Palace. The palace’s detailed architecture is a tribute to the skills of local artisans and craftspeople. Built as a stepped palace upon a hillside, the four buildings illustrate various architectural styles, reflecting prevailing influences such as Mughal and Rajput styles.

You will end the walk at the Jagdish Temple, the focal point of worship in the Old City.

Hotel: Trident
Room: Deluxe
Meals provided: Breakfast, dinner

In keeping with the royal family’s claim they are Surya vansh (descendants of the Sun) the structure faces east and a stunning bejeweled image of the sun that greets visitors at the entrance. Here you will tour Signature Art Studio, where the tradition of Indian painting is continued both in making copies after earlier paintings and the creation of new works.
**Sunday, November 15**  
**Udaipur**

You will take a full-day excursion to the richly carved marble temple at Ranakpur. Belonging to the Jain religious sect, the temple is unique in that each of its 1,144 pillars is distinct in its design. The temple is a living one, with devotees visiting the many shrines to perform rituals, chant, and meditate.

You will stop at Mountbatten Lodge for lunch before returning to Udaipur.

Your route will pass through the Aravalli Hills, the oldest mountain range in the world. Along the way you will see a very traditional way of life still being practiced. You’ll find yourself stopping often to take photographs of small hamlets, fields irrigated with a Persian water wheel, outdoor schools, and colorfully dressed women working in the fields.

Hotel: Trident  
Room: Deluxe  
Meals provided: Breakfast, lunch

**Monday, November 16**  
**Udaipur to Delhi**

In the morning, you will visit the small but beautiful complex at Nagda. Known as the Sas and Bahu temples (literally Temples of the Mother-in-Law and Daughter-in-Law), these elaborately carved 10th-century temples are dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

The larger Sas temple features beautiful friezes with scenes from the Ramayana, meetings of lovers, and images of the Hindu trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. The Bahu temple has a richly carved archway and columns carved with female figurines.

You will depart for Delhi by Air Vistara UK 628 (3:20 PM/4:45 PM). You will be met and transferred to your hotel near the airport. Later you will be transferred to the international airport.

Hotel: JW Marriott  
Room: Deluxe  
Meals provided: Breakfast

**WELCOME HOME!**