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Custom India Trips Feature Homestays

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Geringer Global Travel is offering a fully customizable trip to India that combines local family homestays with accommodations at bed and breakfasts and intimate boutique properties in Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Mandawa, Bikaner, Jodhpur and Udaipur. In a home away from home, guests will enjoy the warm hospitality of Indian families, immerse themselves in local knowledge, indulge in home-cooked regional cuisines and visit India's top sights. The suggested 11-day itinerary, priced at \$1,759 per person, double, is valid through March 31, 2012.

Day 1-3: Delhi – Agra

The journey will begin with a homestay at Thikana, an intimate family property nestled in the quiet and relaxing neighborhood of Gulmohar Park in South Delhi. The hosts, Atul and Sheetal Bhalla, create a comfortable environment to make the stay as memorable as possible. On day two, guests will explore the sights of Delhi including the Red Fort, Qutub Minar and Chandni Chowk. On day three, they will drive to Agra and check into Col. Lamba's Indian home, hosted by a retired army officer from the Punjab Regiment. From this property guests can see the Taj Mahal. In the afternoon, sightseeing will include a visit to the Agra Fort and a sunset visit to the Taj Mahal.

Day 4-6: Jaipur – Mandawa

The next morning, guests will visit the imperial "ghost city" of Fatehpur Sikri en route to Jaipur. Upon arrival, guests will check into Dera Mandawa, a boutique property located in the heart of Jaipur. This historic estate built in 1890 is hosted by Thakur Durga Sing, a modern traditionalist delighted to share his activities of rain water harvesting with his guests. On day five, guests will embark on a full-day city tour of Jaipur visiting the Amber Fort, City Palace and Jantar Mantar. On day six, they will head to Mandawa, an ancient feudal settlement in Rajasthan and home of a royal castle decorated with frescos of famous merchants from the region. Guests will stay at Mandawa Haveli, a majestic architectural marvel combining Old World charm with present-day luxury.

Day 7-8: Bikaner – Jodhpur

After breakfast guests will drive to Bikaner in north Rajasthan, a city dotted with scores of sand dunes and known for having the best camel riding in the world. After checking into the Vijay Guest House, the group will explore Junagarh Fort and the Jain Temples of Bhandeshwar and Sandeshwar. On day eight, guests will drive to Jodhpur to be welcomed at Mohan Niwas, a home built by the father-in-law who was part of the Maharajah family of Jodhpur. Sightseeing in Jodhpur includes the Meherangarh Fort and Jaswant Thada.

Day 9-10: Udaipur

En route to Udaipur, guests will visit the Ranakpur Jain Temples before checking into Devra, a privately owned five-acre estate in the tranquil Aravali Hills with views of an 800-year old temple. Host, Major Durga Das, a former officer of the Indian elite Armoured Corps, is delightful company for bird watching or walks around the estate. His wife, Jyoti, prepares the meals. In the evening guests will enjoy an enchanting boat cruise on Lake Pichola. On Day 10, sightseeing will include Jagdish Temple and a visit to the City Palace, one of the largest palaces in the world.

Day 11: Udaipur – Delhi

This day is free to relax or explore on your own until your flight to Delhi.

This suggested itinerary includes accommodations for 10 nights on twin-sharing basis; daily buffet breakfast; all domestic transportation; rickshaw ride in Old Delhi; elephant ride in Jaipur; boat ride in Udaipur; entrance fees as per itinerary; English-speaking guide; all current applicable taxes.

About Geringer Global Travel

Susan Geringer, an India travel and tour specialist, is the owner of Geringer Global Travel, a travel company specializing in custom itineraries to India and beyond. Susan travels to India about four times per year to discover new places and hidden gems for her itineraries. (877-255-7438, www.geringerglobaltravel.com)



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