

# CMEatSEA India 2013



## 10 Days Exclusive Land Program May 01 – May 10 2013

### Itinerary:

April 17-May 1, 2013:	Singapore to Mumbai Cruise
May 01 - 03, 2013:	Mumbai
May 03 - 05, 2013:	Udaipur
May 05 - 07, 2013:	Jaipur
May 07 - 08, 2013:	Agra
May 08 - 09, 2013:	Varanasi
May 09 - 10, 2013:	Delhi
May 10 - 2013:	Flight Home

### Optional:

May 10 - 13, 2013:	Kashmir
May 14- 2013:	Flight Home

## Itinerary

April 17, 2013	Arrive in Singapore
April 17, 2013	Transfer to the Azamara Journey (Singapore)
April 18, 2013	Singapore
April 19, 2013	At Sea
April 20, 2013	Georgetown, Penang – Malaysia
April 21–23, 2013	At Sea
April 24–25, 2013	Colombo, Sri Lanka
April 26, 2013	At Sea
April 27, 2013	Cochin, India
April 28, 2013	At Sea
April 29, 2013	Goa, India
April 30 – May 3, 2013	Mumbai (Bombay), India
May 4–5, 2013	Udaipur
May 6–7, 2013	Jaipur
May 7–8, 2013	Agra
May 8–9, 2013	Varanasi
May 9–10, 2013	Dehli

## CMEatSEA Exclusives

- ✓ Escorted by Sanjay Goel, President of CMEatSEA
- ✓ Up to 36 CME Hours
- ✓ 14 day Azamara Cruise from Singapore to Mumbai
- ✓ 10 day land program post-cruise including Mumbai / Udaipur / Jaipur / Agra / Dehli
- ✓ Optional 3 night post package in Kashmir (Himalayas)

## Program Highlights

- ✓ Charter flights within India
- ✓ Beer, Wine and Sodas included with lunch and dinner
- ✓ All gratuities are included



## Cruise Highlights

Onboard Azamara Club Cruises, we've learned that while your journey may include many enchanting ports and unforgettable destinations, the style in which you travel should be just as memorable. From the warm smiles you receive as soon as you board, we want every aspect of your cruise to be exactly as you want it. With one staff member for every two guests, our graceful and unobtrusive service is unparalleled.

Azamara's ships capture the ambience of premier European boutique hotels, with every amenity the discerning voyager has come to expect from a luxurious travel experience. Modern staterooms, fine regional cuisine and world-class wine cellars delight seasoned travelers. Well-appointed fitness and spa facilities encourage good health and relaxation. And gratuities for all dining, bar, and housekeeping staff are always included.

More included. More value. Azamara is proudly setting a new standard when it comes to onboard service. With so much included on every Azamara Club Cruise, we want to impress you every chance we get to ensure that you experience the voyage of a lifetime.

### Inclusive Amenities

On an Azamara Club Cruise, expect your fare to include much more than a simple vacation. While other cruise lines deluge you with fees and charges, Azamara presents you with more tangible value and inclusive benefits. The new Azamara includes a host of value-added amenities that will make your voyage memorable for both its experience and its value.

### Dining Options

From casual eateries serving a buffet of delights to our two specialty restaurants where each meal is a culinary masterpiece, there are choices sure to please even those with a most discerning palate.

### Unique Stateroom Experience

All the comforts of home plus a world of extras – that's what you'll find in the accommodations aboard Azamara Club Cruises. Azamara Club Cruises offers its guests an abundance of suites and veranda staterooms, so you can watch the world melt away into the glistening horizon.

### Entertainment & Activities

Get ready for a voyage like no other! Onboard Azamara you will enjoy all the activities and entertainment that you'd expect from a true luxury cruise.

### Spa & Fitness

Expect much more than head-to-toe pampering, for here at Azamara Club Cruises, we believe body, mind, and soul are interconnected. Therefore, we offer a world-class spa, with the finest therapists and aestheticians, featuring exclusive Elemis treatments.



## MORE INCLUDED. MORE VALUE.

Time slows down when you travel on Azamara Club Cruises®. So, relax and take time to savor the many inclusive amenities that make our voyages so rewarding. We blend romance, elegance and adventure into every voyage, so you can expect much more from your vacation, without having to reach for your wallet. "Unforgettable" is a word our guests often use to describe their Azamara voyage. And our host of value-added amenities will make your voyage memorable for both its experience and its value.

Exceptional cuisine and wine are integral parts of the Azamara experience, and you will enjoy complimentary select vintages at each lunch and dinner. Bottled water, soft drinks, coffees and teas are complimentary for all guests at all times. To ensure graceful and unobtrusive service across all aspects of your voyage, we provide our guests with complimentary concierge service. Additionally, suite guests enjoy truly indulgent service from our English trained butlers. For stateroom guests, a Stateroom Attendant and an Assistant Stateroom Attendant uphold the highest standard of service.

The perfect voyage encompasses more than the perfect destination. It's an experience where memories remain long after you've reached your final port. On other voyages, these numerous included amenities would equate to numerous tips, detracting from the value of your voyage. With more inclusive amenities, you're free to experience more of what makes an Azamara Club Cruise truly unique as you embark on the voyage of a lifetime.

### Inclusive Amenities

You'll find many inclusive amenities on every Azamara voyage, including:

- Boutique red and white wines with lunch and dinner
- Gratuities included for housekeeping, dining and bar staff
- Bottled water, soft drinks, specialty coffees and teas throughout the day
- Complimentary self-service laundry
- True English butler service for suite guests
- Specialty dining available (complimentary for suite guests)
- Complimentary shuttle service to and from ports, where available

## ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

<p>April 30<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Arrive Mumbai</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cruise Arrives into Mumbai at noon</li> <li>▪ Lunch on the Ship</li> <li>▪ Traditional Welcome</li> <li>▪ Positive Footprint</li> <li>▪ Overnight on the Ship</li> </ul>
<p>May 1<sup>st</sup></p> <p>Mumbai</p> <p>B,L,D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Breakfast on the Ship</li> <li>▪ Visit the Slum from Slum Dog Millionaire</li> <li>▪ Lunch at the Hotel the Taj Mahal</li> <li>▪ Check into hotel and have time to rest</li> <li>▪ Bollywood Movie Event – <i>be part of a CMEatSEA Bollywood Movie!</i> - followed by Dinner</li> <li>▪ Taj Mahal Palace Hotel – <a href="http://www.tajhotels.com">www.tajhotels.com</a></li> </ul>
<p>May 2<sup>nd</sup></p> <p>Mumbai</p> <p>B,L,D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Morning Excursion to Elephanta Caves</li> <li>▪ Tour of Six Sigma – Mumbai Dhabbawalas</li> <li>▪ Sightseeing Tour of Mumbai</li> <li>▪ Lunch at Veda Restaurant</li> <li>▪ Afternoon optional Astrology Session</li> <li>▪ Dinner at the Hotel</li> <li>▪ Taj Mahal Palace Hotel – <a href="http://www.tajhotels.com">www.tajhotels.com</a></li> </ul>
<p>May 3<sup>rd</sup></p> <p><u>Mumbai / Udaipur</u></p> <p>B,L,D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transfer to the Airport for our Charter flight to Udaipur</li> <li>▪ Tour of the City Palace</li> <li>▪ Lunch at Fateh Prakash Palace</li> <li>▪ Check into the Hotel Taj Lake Palace and afternoon at Leisure</li> <li>▪ Evening Boat Ride on Lake Pichola followed by a Grand Gala Dinner at Jagmandir Island Palace</li> <li>▪ Udaipur Lake Palace Resort – <a href="http://www.tajhotels.com">www.tajhotels.com</a></li> </ul>
<p>May 4<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Udaipur</p> <p>B,L,D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ City Tour of Udaipur</li> <li>▪ Lunch at The Leela Hotel</li> <li>▪ Afternoon Free to Enjoy Spa and Pool Facilities</li> <li>▪ Carnival Dinner at the Lake Palace</li> <li>▪ Udaipur Lake Palace Resort – <a href="http://www.tajhotels.com">www.tajhotels.com</a></li> </ul>
<p>May 5<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Udaipur / Jaipur</p> <p>B,L,D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transfer to the Airport for our Charter Flight to Jaipur</li> <li>▪ Tour of the ‘Pink City’</li> <li>▪ Transfer to Hotel Taj Ram Bagh Palace</li> <li>▪ Lunch at the Hotel</li> <li>▪ Optional Indian Cooking Class</li> <li>▪ Afternoon at Leisure</li> <li>▪ Grand Dinner at the Private Palace of Maharaja</li> <li>▪ Rambagh Palace Hotel – <a href="http://www.tajhotels.com">www.tajhotels.com</a></li> </ul>
<p>May 6<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Jaipur</p> <p>B,L,D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Excursion to Amber Fort with an Elephant Ride</li> <li>▪ Tour of Jal Mahal Palace</li> <li>▪ Lunch at a Local Restaurant</li> <li>▪ Jewelry Factory Tour</li> <li>▪ Evening Elephant Polo and Dinner</li> <li>▪ Rambagh Palace Hotel – <a href="http://www.tajhotels.com">www.tajhotels.com</a></li> </ul>

<p>May 7<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Jaipur / Agra</p> <p>B,L,D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transfer by Coach fro Jaipur to Agra</li> <li>▪ Visit Fatehpur Sikri</li> <li>▪ Lunch at the Hotel at the Hotel Oberoi Amar Villas and check-in</li> <li>▪ Afternoon Free to Enjoy Spa and Pool Facilities</li> <li>▪ Optional Visit to Agra Fort available</li> <li>▪ Dinner at Taj Khema Overlooking the Taj Mahal</li> <li>▪ Oberoi Amar Villas – <a href="http://www.oberoihotels.com">www.oberoihotels.com</a></li> </ul>
<p>May 8<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Agra / Varanasi</p> <p>B,L,D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rickshaw Ride from Parking to Taj Mahal Gate</li> <li>▪ Early Morning Visit to the Taj Mahal</li> <li>▪ Breakfast at the Hotel</li> <li>▪ Transfer to the Airport for our Charter flight to Varanasi</li> <li>▪ Lunch at the Nadesar Palace Hotel and check-in</li> <li>▪ Afternoon Excursion to Sarnath followed by an Evening Aarti Ceremony on the Ganges</li> <li>▪ Dinner at the Hotel and an Indian Classical Dance Performance</li> <li>▪ Nadesar Palace Hotel – <a href="http://www.tajhotels.com">www.tajhotels.com</a></li> </ul>
<p>May 9<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Varanasi / Delhi</p> <p>B,L,D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Early Morning Boat Ride on the Ganges</li> <li>▪ Breakfast at the Hotel</li> <li>▪ Temple Tour of Varanasi</li> <li>▪ Lunch at the Nadesar Palace Hotel</li> <li>▪ Transfer to the Airport for our Charter Flight to Dehli</li> <li>▪ Transfer to the Taj Palace Hotel</li> <li>▪ Afternoon at Leisure</li> <li>▪ Grand Gala Dinner at the Lions of Punjab</li> <li>▪ Taj Palace Hotel – <a href="http://www.tajhotels.com">www.tajhotels.com</a></li> </ul>
<p>May 10<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Delhi</p> <p>B,L,D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Global Medicine</li> <li>▪ Visit to Old Delhi with a Rickshaw Ride</li> <li>▪ Lunch at a Local Restaurant</li> <li>▪ Visit to Gandhi’s Memorial</li> <li>▪ Farewell Dinner Celebration</li> <li>▪ Transfer to the Airport for your flight back to North America</li> </ul>

**OPTIONAL TOUR TO THE HIMALAYAS:**

<p>May 11<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Srinagar</p> <p>B,L,D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transfer to the Airport for the flight from Dehli to Srinagar</li> <li>▪ Transfer to your private House Boat on Dal Lake</li> <li>▪ Welcome Drink of a Special Saffron Tea</li> <li>▪ Lunch on your House Boat</li> <li>▪ Shikara Boat Tour of Dal Lake</li> <li>▪ Dinner at a local restaurant</li> </ul>
<p>May 12<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Srinagar</p> <p>B,L,D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Breakfast on your House Boat</li> <li>▪ Tour of Mughal Gardens</li> <li>▪ Lunch at the Lalit Grand Palace</li> <li>▪ Kashmiri Handicraft Shopping</li> <li>▪ Dinner at a local restaurant</li> </ul>



<p>May 13<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Srinagar</p> <p>B,L,D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Breakfast on your House Boat</li> <li>▪ Excursion to Gulmarg</li> <li>▪ Lunch at Highland Park</li> <li>▪ Visit to Dachigam National Park</li> <li>▪ Kashmir Wazwan Dinner</li> </ul>
<p>May 14<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Srinagar / Delhi</p> <p>B,L,D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Optional Early Morning Visit to the Floating Market</li> <li>▪ Breakfast on your House Boat</li> <li>▪ Transfer to the Airport for your flight to Dehli</li> <li>▪ Check in at the Hotel Taj Palace Hotel</li> <li>▪ Dinner at the Taj Palace Hotel</li> <li>▪ Transfer to the Airport for your flight to North America</li> </ul>

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE:** *The itinerary, hotels, restaurants and tours are subject to change.*

## Detailed Itinerary



### April 30<sup>th</sup> - Mumbai

- Cruise Arrives at 12:00 Noon
- Traditional Welcome
- Positive Footprint
- Dinner on the Ship
- Overnight on the Ship

Arrive in Mumbai's harbour aboard the cruise ship. You will be given a traditional welcome of flower garlands on arrival.

Lunch onboard the ship.

After lunch we will proceed to visit an NGO that works with orphaned children, **Make A Difference**. *Make a Difference* was founded in 2006 by a group of college students from Cochin who wanted to make a difference in the lives of some gifted and talented but not so opportunistic children. What started as a step driven by passion to teach children living in orphanages, the language of English and computers, became a major project and finally an organization in major cities across India to hone them towards dreaming as big as any of us.

After the tour, transfer back to the ship.

Dinner and overnight onboard the Azamara Journey.



**May 1<sup>st</sup> - Mumbai**

- **Breakfast on the Ship**
- **Tour of Dharavi (also known as the Slum Dog Millionaire Tour)**
- **Lunch at the Taj Mahal Hotel followed by check-in**
- **Be a Part of a Bollywood Movie followed by Dinner**

After disembarking the Azamara Journey, we will proceed to a tour of Dharavi, also known as the Slum Dog Millionaire Tour. The tour of Dharavi consists of the commercial and residential areas. In the residential areas the sense of community and good nature of people will be apparent. While going through the residential area, you will get a sense of the conditions and problems that the residents face. In the commercial area you will see the recycling, food making, temple, sewing, bakery, soap factory and pappad making areas. They all take place in small rooms, which you will see as we pass through the maze of small gullies.

The tour guide will give information about Dharavi and its history, talk about issues such as sanitation, education, and the role of government.

After the tour, Lunch will be served at the Taj Mahal Hotel followed by check-in.



Light, camera, action! No, it's not Hollywood, it's Bollywood, home of Hindi cinema! India remains the largest film producer of the world, producing an average of 1000 films a year. Since 1931, when the talkies were introduced, India has produced more than 67,000 films in 30 languages. Today Bollywood is no longer the curry kitsch of the past; it has gathered a large worldwide audience. Through its international quality and blend of East with West,

Bollywood has come a long way since 1896 when soundless movies made its advent into India with the Lumiere Brothers.

We invite you to enter the world of Bollywood in Hindi filmy *ishtyle!* Tonight you will be in a Bollywood movie – CMEatSEA Style followed by dinner.

### **May 2 - Mumbai**

- **Morning Excursion to Elephanta Caves**
- **Tour of Six Sigma – Mumbai Dhabbawalas**
- **City Tour of Mumbai**
- **Lunch at Veda Restaurant**
- **Afternoon at Leisure**
- **Optional Astrology Reading**
- **Dinner at the Hotel**
- **Overnight at the Hotel**

After breakfast this morning, we will go to the boat jetty at the Gateway of India for a one hour boat ride to the famed **Elephanta Island**. Elephanta Island is the site of the magnificent Elephanta caves, containing beautiful carvings, sculptures, and a temple to the Hindu God, Lord Shiva. The island, being a commercial, military and religions centre for centuries also has traces of early Buddhist culture.



The Elephanta caves are thought to date back to the Silhara kings belonging to the period between 9th - 12th centuries. With the Brahminical resurgence during the reign of Gupta dynasty in 3rd century AD, these great caves exploded into existence at Elephanta. Legends and history suggest that the great warrior prince of Chalukya dynasty Pulkesin II raised the shrine to celebrate his victory. Some historians also suggest that the Kalchuri King Krishnaraja built these caves in 6th century AD. The island was the capital of the powerful coastal kingdom but later the Portuguese took possession of the island and as they first found a monolith elephant the island was named Elephanta. As the worship of the figure of the Buddha began to be encouraged with rise of the Mahayana sect of Buddhism, a shrine was introduced to house Buddha's image, replacing the cells at the centre of the back wall. The Monasteries of Ajanta lead us directly to Elephanta. It appears that the same families of craftsmen and sculptors who were working on the Kailasa temple of Ellora and adjoining Buddhist caves at Ellora were employed at Elephanta.

No doubt the cave was the creation of an unknown genius, a master architect, who having thoroughly absorbed and assimilated the magnificent contribution of his predecessors in the dual traditions of the independent free standing sculpture and rock-cut architecture, produced a monument introducing a whole new world of form quite distinct from any previous achievement. At the entrance to the caves is the famous Trimurti, the celebrated trinity of Elephanta: Lord Brahma the Creator, Lord Vishnu, the preserver and Lord Shiva the Destroyer.

Following the Elephanta caves, we will **visit Six Sigma - Mumbai Dabbawala's**. The Mumbai tiffinwallas are international figures now thanks to *Forbes Global*. The *Forbes* story details the efficiency which with they deliver the tiffins of their customers. Around 5000 tiffinwallas deliver 175,000 lunches everyday and take the empty tiffin back. They make one mistake in 2 months. This means there is one error on every 16 million transactions. This is

thus a six sigma performance (a term used in quality assurance if the percentage of correctness is 99.99999) - the performance which has made companies like Motorola and GE world famous for their quality.



How do they do it? The meals are picked up from commuters' homes in suburbs around central Mumbai long after the commuters have left for work, delivered to them on time, then picked up and delivered home before the commuters return. Each tiffin carrier has, painted on its top, a number of symbols which identify where the carrier was picked up, the originating and destination stations and the address to which it is to be delivered. After the tiffin carriers are picked up, they are taken to the nearest railway station, where they are sorted according to the destination station.

Between 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. they are loaded in crates onto the baggage cars of trains. At the destination station they are unloaded by other tiffinwallahs and re-sorted, this time according to street address and floor. The 100-kilogram crates of carriers, carried on tiffinwallahs' heads, hand-wagons and cycles are delivered at 12:30 p.m., picked up at 1:30 p.m., and returned where they came from.

The charge for this extraordinary service is just 150 rupees (\$3.33) per month, enough for the tiffinwallahs, who are mostly self-employed, to make a good living. After paying Rs. 60 per crate and Rs.120 per man per month to the Western Railway for transport, the average tiffinwallahs clears about Rs.3,250. Of that sum, Rs. 10 goes to the Tiffinmen's Association. After minimal expenses, the rest of the Rs. 50,000 a month that the Association collects go to a charitable trust that feeds the poor. Superb service and charity too. Can anyone ask for more?



What is wonderful about this system is that it extends the design and uses the tiffinwallahs, the end user and their cognitive and memory structure as well. Since one tiffinwallah is not going to pick more than 10-20 tiffins, he can easily sort recognize at the originating station and deliver it to the owner. Also within a building, the tiffinwallah knows which floor to deliver. Within a floor an owner can recognize his tiffin amongst others.

These tiffin's carry only: a symbol (not name) of the originating station; a symbol for the destination station; and a symbol for the building where the addressee is. And what is more amazing is that this is run by people, most of whom are illiterate.



Later proceed for a **City Tour of Mumbai**. This includes a visit to the Dhobi Ghat, Gateway of India and Mani Bhawan (Gandhi Memorial). Drive past the Victoria Terminus, Mumbai University, Marine Drive and Chowpatty Beach.

Mumbai's principal landmark, the Gateway of India is a huge archway on the water's edge. This famous monument was built to commemorate the visit of the first ever British Monarch, King George V and Queen Mary in 1911. It is 26m high structures, complete with four

turrets and intricate latticework carved into the yellow basalt stone. Behind the arch, there are steps leading down to the water. Here, one can get onto one of the bobbing little motor launches, for a short cruise through Mumbai's splendid natural harbour.

Next is a visit to Dhobi Ghat. A unique feature of Mumbai, the dhobi is a traditional laundryman, who will collect your dirty linen, wash it, and return it neatly pressed to your doorstep - all for a pittance. The "laundries" are called "ghats": row upon row of concrete wash pens, each fitted with its own flogging stone. The clothes are soaked in sudsy water, thrashed on the flogging stones, then tossed into huge vats of boiling starch and hung out to dry. Next they are ironed and piled into neat bundles. The most famous of these Dhobi Ghats is at Saat Rasta near Mahalaxmi Station where almost two hundred dhobis and their families work together in what has always been a hereditary occupation.

Enjoy **Lunch at Veda Restaurant**, Rohit Bal's Restaurant in Mumbai. The decor evokes Indian palaces and has similarly decadent European influences. There are richly coloured walls with massive red glass chandeliers, gold filigree on the ceilings and large Venetian mirrors on every wall. The food, like the decor, is mostly Indian with Western influences. Veda serves food with all the subtleties of its ingredients and flavors to transform it from being just 'Indian Food' to Fine Indian Cuisine. What makes Veda spectacular is the menu has something for



everyone, promising to wow with its lip-smacking food, served amidst lavish interiors. The cuisine is a contemporary interpretation of classic Indian cooking.

After lunch, enjoy a relaxing afternoon at the hotel.

Everyone will have an opportunity this afternoon to participate in an optional session on Astrology. The foundation of Hindu astrology is the notion of bandhu of the Vedas (scriptures), which is the connection between the microcosm and the macrocosm. Practice relies primarily on the sidereal zodiac, which is different from the tropical zodiac used in Western (Hellenistic) astrology in that an ayanamsa adjustment is made for the gradual precession of the vernal equinox. Hindu astrology includes several nuanced sub-systems of interpretation and prediction with elements not found in Hellenistic astrology, such as its system of lunar mansions. Astrology forms an integral part of Indian life and it retains a position among sciences in modern India.

Dinner at the Hotel.



**May 3 - Mumbai - Udaipur**

- **Transfer to Airport for the Charter Flight to Udaipur**
- **Tour of City Palace in Udaipur**
- **Lunch at Fateh Prakash Palace**
- **Check in at the Hotel Taj Lake Palace and the afternoon is at Leisure**
- **Evening Boat Ride on Lake Pichola followed by a Grand Gala Dinner at Jagmandir Island Palace**

This morning we will depart the hotel for our Charter Flight from Mumbai to Udaipur.

Upon arrival in Udaipur begin your sightseeing with a visit to the **City Palace**. The huge City Palace, towering over the Lake Pichola is the largest palace complex in Rajasthan. Though it is a conglomeration of buildings built by successive rulers, it manages to retain a surprising uniformity of design and affords fine views of the lake and the city from upper terraces.



The entry to the Palace is from the Hati Pol, the Elephant Gate. The Bari Pol or the Big Gate brings you to the Tripolia, the Triple gate. It was a custom to weigh the Maharaja under this gate in gold and silver, which was distributed to the populace. Balconies, cupolas and towers of the palace give a wonderful view of the lake. Suraj Gokhada (or the balcony of the sun) is where the Maharana would grant public audiences mainly to boost the morale of the people in trying times. The Mor Chowk is the Hindi name of peacock square and is named after a vivid blue decorative glass peacock on the wall.



The main part of the palace is now preserved as a museum displaying a large and diverse array of artifacts. As we go down the steps from the entrance is the armoury museum exhibiting a huge collection of protective gears and various kinds of weapons including the lethal two-pronged sword. The City Palace museum is then entered through the Ganesh Deori. This leads to the Rajya Angan or the royal courtyard. This is the spot where Maharana Udai Singh is said to have met the sage who advised him to found a city here. The rooms of the palace are superbly decorated with mirror tiles and paintings. Manak Mahal or the Ruby Palace has a lovely collection of glass and mirror work while Krishna Vilas displays a rich collection of miniature paintings. Moti Mahal (the pearl palace) has beautiful mirror work and the Chini Mahal has ornamental tiles all over. The Surya Chopar (the sun square) depicts a huge ornamental sun symbolising the sun dynasty to which the Maharajas and their ancestors belonged. The Bari Mahal is a central garden giving a view of the city. Some more beautiful paintings can be seen in the Zenana Mahal (the ladies chamber). Then, there is the Lakshmi Chowk which is a beautiful white pavilion.

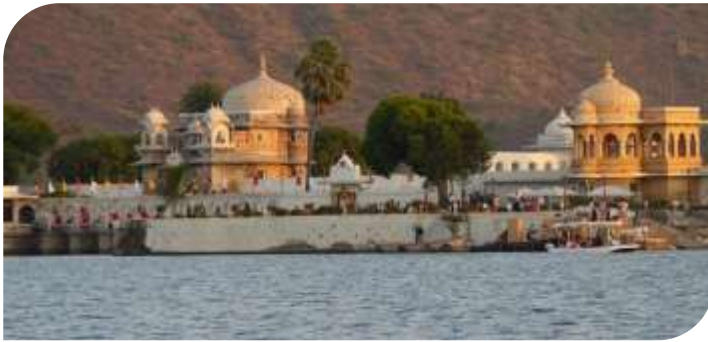
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Lunch at Fateh Prakash Palace.

After lunch we will go to the Hotel Taj Lake Palace to check in and the afternoon is at leisure.

This evening, we will embark on an evening boat ride on Lake Pichola before our Gala Dinner at the Jagmandir Island Palace. Jagmandir Island is situated in the midst of Lake Pichola. Built by Maharana Karan Singhji in the early 1600s but takes its name from Maharana Jagat Singh (1628-52) who made a number of additions to it. It was in

this pleasure Palace where, Prince Khurram, who later on became the Emperor Shahjahan of Mughal dynasty, took refuge in 1623. It is claimed that he derived his inspiration to build Taj Mahal from this island.



The whole island has an encompassing view of the City Palace, Lake Palace, the Lake and the Aravali ranges of hills. The sight as one nears the island is stunning, as it is beautifully illuminated and looks like a floating jewel. Once inside, the place transports you to another era, recapturing the essence of royal leisure palaces.

#### **May 4 - Udaipur**

- **City Tour of Udaipur**
- **Lunch at The Leela Palace**
- **Afternoon at leisure to Enjoy Spa and Pool Facilities**
- **Carnival Dinner at Lake Palace**

After breakfast, proceed for a **city tour of Udaipur**. Visit Jagdish Temple, located in the City Palace complex. Built in 1651, this temple is made in the Indo-Aryan style of architecture. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu (Laxmi Narayan), the preserver of the Universe. It is celebrated for being the largest temple in the city of Udaipur. This three-storied temple is a wonder of architecture that comprises beautifully carved pillars, decorated ceilings, painted walls and lush halls. In those times, 1.5 million rupees were spent to raise this structure. The spire of the main temple is around 79 feet high that undoubtedly dominates the skyline of Udaipur. This shikhar (spire) is festooned with sculptures of dancers, elephants, horsemen and musicians making it truly a sight to behold.

When you approach the temple, you are welcomed by two huge stone elephants at the entrance. The main shrine houses the striking four-armed image of Lord Vishnu. This idol is carved out of a single piece of black stone. A single glimpse of the idol takes the person to the celestial world to find everything calm and serene. The main shrine of Lord Jagdish/ Vishnu is centrally located encircled by four smaller shrines. These shrines are dedicated to Lord Ganesha, Sun God, Goddess Shakti and Lord Shiva respectively.

The splendid architecture of the temple boasts of a pyramidal spire, mandap (prayer hall) and a porch. The first and the second storey of the temple possess 50 pillars each. The intricate carvings on the pillars need an enduring sight to praise the noteworthy beauty of this temple. This temple was built keeping in the mind the Hindu architectural science of 'Vastushtra'. Every year, people from far and near come to visit this holy place of worship. The serenity as well as the architectural magnificence of the temple cannot be bounded in words, so one must visit this temple to get the blessings of Lord Jagdish..





Next, visit Saheliyon Ki Bari, one of the most beautiful gardens and a major tourist destination in Udaipur. The garden is famous for its lush green lawns, marble art and fountains. The English translation of Saheliyon Ki Bari means "Garden of Maids". This renowned garden is located on the banks of Fateh Sagar Lake, presenting a green retreat in the dry lands of Rajasthan. Garden of maids was built in the 18th century by Maharana Sangram Singh for the royal ladies. As per the legends, the garden was designed by the king himself and he presented this garden to his queen. Actually, the Queen was accompanied by 48 maids in her marriage. To offer all of them pleasurable moments away from the political intrigues of the court, this garden was made. This patterned garden used to be the popular relaxing spot of the royal ladies. The queen with her maids and female companions used to come here for a stroll and spend their time in leisure.

The superb architecture of the garden provides a breath-taking view to any observer. The garden is embellished with numerous fountains in its four water pools, chiseled kiosks and marble elephants. It is also celebrated for its lotus pool and bird-fountains. The lush green lawns, flowerbeds, and marble pavilions further enhance the romantic ambience of this magnificent garden.

Lunch will be at The Leela Palace. After lunch we will return to the hotel and the afternoon is free to enjoy the spa and pool facilities.

This evening, there will be a Carnival Dinner at Lake Palace with a Rajasthani cultural performance.

#### **May 5 - Udaipur – Jaipur**

- **Charter Flight from Udaipur to Jaipur**
- **Orientation Tour of the 'Pink City'**
- **Lunch at the Taj Ram Bagh Palace Hotel prior to check-in**
- **Optional Indian Cooking Class at the Taj Ram Bagh Palace Hotel**
- **Afternoon at Leisure**
- **Grand Dinner at the Private Palace of Maharaja**

This morning we will transfer to the airport for our Charter Flight from Udaipur to Jaipur. Upon arrival in Jaipur, we will go on an orientation tour of Jaipur.

Jaipur was once the capital of Rajasthan province and was known as "The Abode of Rajahs." Known as the Pink City, Jaipur is the capital of the colourful state of Rajasthan. It has the distinction of being a well planned and laid



out city. As you drive through the old part of town, you will witness a life most unlike others. Witness how the city blooms during the day in a kaleidoscope of colour and sound. Jaipur is 260 km from Delhi and 240 km from Agra. It a bustling capital city and a business centre with all the trapping of modern metropolis but yet flavoured strongly with an age-old charm that never fails to surprise a traveller. The old Jaipur painted in Pink can grip any visitor with admiration. The stunning backdrop of ancient forts Nahargarh, Amer, Jaigarh and Moti Dungri are dramatic

testimonials of the bygone era and a reminder of their lingering romance.

After the city tour, we will go to the Taj Ram Bagh Palace Hotel where you will enjoy a Maharaja welcome. Decorated elephants and horses welcome you, while traditionally attired ladies offer fresh flower garlands, followed by Aarti and Tika.



Lunch will be served at the hotel and the afternoon is at leisure.

This afternoon, we will have an optional cooking lesson: Participate in preparing a signature Indian meal at Taj Rambagh Palace by their renowned chef. Indian cuisine consists of myriad regional cuisines which date back thousands of years. Indian dishes are characterized by the extensive use of Indian spices, herbs, vegetables, and fruits. Vegetarianism is an important part of Indian society and is reflected in the cuisine. Indian food varies from region to region, reflecting the demographics of the ethnically-diverse subcontinent.



Tonight we will have a Grand Dinner at the Private Palace of Maharaja: Enjoy live instrumental music and traditional Rajasthani dances during dinner at the royal pavilion which overlooks the sprawling Jai Niwas Garden and offers a panoramic view of the old city of Jaipur.

**06 May Jaipur**

- **Excursion to Amber Fort with Elephant Ride**
- **Tour of Jal Mahal Palace**
- **Lunch at a Local Restaurant**
- **Jewelry Factory Tour**
- **Evening Elephant Polo with Dinner**



This morning, we will start our day by touring the Amber Fort. Amber Fort is a marvellous example of Rajput architecture with its terraces and ramparts reflected in the Maota Lake below. Ride an elephant to go up the fort like a maharaja. The interior of the fort has various royal halls decorated with intricate ivory, mirror and glass work complemented by exquisite wall paintings. As you move between the rooms of this magnificent structure, feel the history and visualise the pomp and grandeur of a kingdom never conquered.



Next visit Jal Mahal Palace. Jal Mahal literally meaning Palace in the Midst of Water is located in the middle of the Man Sagar Lake in the Jaipur city. The palace and the lake around it were renovated and enlarged in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Maharaja Jai Singh II of Amber.

Lunch will be served at a local restaurant.

After lunch proceed for a tour of one of the largest Jewelry Factories. The jewelry business has been established in Jaipur for over three decades. Once upon a time, when an A-list diva wanted to glam up for a red carpet event, her

jewelry most likely came from Paris, London or New York. Nowadays, even a Hollywood star might accessorize with jewelry pieces from Jaipur, inspired by traditional Indian and Mughal art.

The afternoon will be at leisure.

This evening we will all enjoy one of the ultimate royal experiences. In the land of Maharajas & Princes, Palaces & Forts, the game of Elephant Polo was one of the ultimate royal experiences. Players are greeted at the Palace's sprawling lawns by a Royal Military Brass Band. Jaipur is the only place in the world where one can witness this exclusive yet gentle sport being played throughout the year. Watching it is a unique and unforgettable experience. The colossal size of the elephant, its playful antics, graceful gait and the wisdom of its eyes have always, moved guests. Dinner will follow the game of Elephant Polo.

### **May 7 - Jaipur – Agra**

- **Drive by Coach from Jaipur to Agra**
- **Visit Fatehpur Sikri on the way**
- **Transfer to Hotel Oberoi Amar Villas**
- **Lunch at the Hotel**
- **Afternoon Free at Leisure**
- **Optional afternoon tour: Visit Agra Fort**
- **Dinner at Taj Khema Overlooking the Taj Mahal**
- **Overnight at the hotel**



This morning we will drive from Jaipur to Agra with a stop at Fatehpur Sikri. The drive is fascinating and offers views of the incredible countryside.

Fatehpur Sikri was the imperial city of the Mughal dynasty between 1571 and 1584. Fatehpur Sikri was built by Mughal Emperor Akbar. The architectural grandeur of this deserted city cannot be described in words and one can only experience the aura of its magnificent edifices by seeing them.

Today, as one enters Sikri from the Agra Gate, one of the nine gateways on the way to the palace complex, Diwan-i-Aam, or the hall of public audience appears first. It is a huge rectangular walled-in courtyard where petitions were heard, proclamations made, ambassadors received and entertainment programmes held. Ponder the mysterious desertion of this capital city that was dramatically abandoned a few years after it was built. It was a veritable fairy tale city and its 'ruins' are still in a pristine condition. It is not hard to imagine what the court life must have been like in the days of its grandeur.



**Arrive in Agra and check in at hotel Oberoi Amar Villas.** At the time of the Mughals, in the 16th & 17th centuries, Agra was the capital of the grand Mughal Empire. During this period the city became a leading centre of art, science, commerce and culture. Akbar the Great made Agra great. The city's origins are dim but Akbar's grandfather Babur is credited with Agra's founding. The short golden age of Agra came to an end with the seventeenth century reign of Shah Jehan, mastermind of the unforgettable Taj Mahal.

Lunch at will be at the Hotel Oberoi Amar Villas. The afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the pool and spa facilities at the hotel.

**Option afternoon excursion:** Visit to Agra Fort. In the afternoon drive to **Agra Fort** where you are taken through the chambers of this royal residence. The great Mughal Emperor Akbar commissioned the construction of the Agra Fort in 1565, A.D. although additions were made till the time of his grandson Shah Jahan. The forbidding exteriors of this fort hide an inner paradise. There are a number of exquisite buildings like Moti Masjid - a white marble mosque akin to a perfect pearl, Diwan—I-Am, Diwan-I-Khaas, Musamman Burj - where Shah Jahan died in 1666 A.D. Jahangir's Palace, Khaas Mahal and Shish Mahal.



This evening, we will have a special Dinner at Taj Khema. Taj Khema is charming experience where you can bask in the magnificence of the Taj Mahal. Located at a distance of approximately 300 meters from the monument, Taj Khema is a lush green mound which offers an un-interrupted view of the Taj. Legend has it that the mud which was dug up to build the Taj Mahal was collected at a little distance and with time it formed into the hillock mound that is now called Taj Khema. It serves as the most scenic vantage point to marvel the beauty of the Taj Mahal. Being located in a protected zone, the area is virtually pollution free.

### **May 8 - Agra – Varanasi**

- **Rickshaw Ride from Parking to Taj Mahal Gate**
- **Early Morning Visit to the Taj Mahal**
- **Breakfast at the hotel**
- **Transfer to the Airport for the Charter flight to Varanasi**
- **Late Afternoon Excursion to Sarnath**
- **Evening Aarti Ceremony on the Ganges**
- **Dinner at the Hotel**
- **Indian Classical Dance Performance**

This morning we will take a rickshaw ride from the parking area to the Taj Mahal Gate for our early morning visit to the Taj Mahal - the magnificent monument to love built by an emperor in memory of his beloved queen.

Construction of the Taj Mahal began in 1631, and is believed to have taken 18 years to complete, with over 20,000 craftsmen working around the clock. The design and construction is said to be that of the legendary architect, Ustad Ahamad Lahori. Legend has it that once construction was completed, Shah Jehan had Lahori's hands cut off, and blinded, so he would never be able to duplicate the structure. What makes the Taj Mahal unique is its perfect proportions, distinct femininity, medium of construction and ornamentation. Its marble exterior reflects rose and golden tints at sunrise and sunset, while it is dazzling white during the day. It is impossible to visualize the Taj

Mahal in any surrounding others than its paradoxical garden. Paradise, in Islam, is visualized as a lush garden where running streams flow. When the Moghuls brought this concept to India they elevated it to the heights of incomparable history.

Return to the hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast, we will transfer to the airport for our Charter flight to Varanasi.



Upon arrival in Varanasi, we will and check into the Nadesar Palace hotel. Varanasi or Kashi, the most sacred and revered of all the Hindu pilgrimage sites is situated on the banks of The River Ganges. Varanasi is one of the oldest continuously living cities in the world. It is said a dip in the holy Ganges redeems a person of all his mortal sins.

Lunch will be served at the hotel and the afternoon will be at leisure.

In the late afternoon we will leave for our excursion to Sarnath with Buddhist Monks. Sarnath is the hallowed spot where Lord Buddha preached his first sermon after attaining Enlightenment, revealing his doctrine of the Eight Fold Path and enshrining the principles of his teachings into laws. The ruined Dharmrajika stupa and the great Dhamekh stupa mark the spot where the Buddha set in motion the Wheel of Law. Explorations during the recent Japanese-funded UNESCO project have yielded in the words of Dr. R.C. Agrawal, superintending Archaeologist "the biggest Buddhist settlement in all of Central India". The remains point to monasteries of enormous proportion. Earlier eight structures had been identified. Now 14 more monasteries and 23 stupas have been found.

In the evening witness *Arti* (Prayer ceremony) on the Ghats of River Ganges with a Hindu priest. The Aarti ceremony takes place each evening on the Ghats of Varanasi and is a process of worship of Goddess Ganges with various musical instruments and relaxing chants. This is truly a magical moment.



Dinner will be served at the hotel followed by an Indian Classical Dance Performance

**May 9 - Varanasi – Delhi**

- **Early Morning Boat Ride on the Ganges**
- **Temple Tour of Varanasi**
- **Transfer to the Airport for our Charter flight to Delhi**
- **After check-in, the afternoon is at Leisure**
- **Grand Gala Dinner at Lions of Punjab**



In the early morning depart the hotel to experience a sunrise while sailing on the River Ganges. There is no Indian attraction like Varanasi. There are no architectural splendours, no exquisitely carved palaces or impregnable forts, and yet the city has an inherent charm. Situated on the west bank of the Ganges, it extends back from the riverbank ghats to a winding maze of picturesque alleys overlooking tall houses alongside, dotted with temple. It is a fascinating area to walk around. Varanasi today, is also a centre of

education, art and craft.

Return to the hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast proceed on a **Temple Tour of Varanasi**. Drive by the Benaras Hindu University with a visit to the Bharat Mata (Mother India) Temple. Visit some of the holy temples of the city which encapsulate the ambience and the spirit of the city. Highlights include the Durga Temple, better known as the 'monkey temple' on account of the large number of monkeys residing there and the Temple of Vishwanath (or Visheshwar, Lord of the Universe).

lunch will be served at the hotel prior to our departure to the Airport for the Charter flight to Delhi

Upon arrival in Delhi, we will transfer to the hotel and the afternoon will be at leisure.

This evening, we will have the Exclusive Dinner at the Lions of Punjab. The Sikh community of Punjab the “Singhs” are also known as the lions because of their bravery and their perseverance. One of the founders of Sikhism, Maharaja Ranjit Singh was known as the “Lion of Punjab”. This evening brings you face-to-face with one of India’s most lively and vibrant states with a little piece of the “Villages of Punjab”. Based on the state of Punjab, the bread basket of India, the evening will expose you to a culture that enjoys living life to its fullest. Enjoy live performances by a traditional “Bhangra” & “Gidda” troupe.



**May 10 - Delhi**

- **Global Medicine - Visit to Hospital AIIMS**
- **Orientation Tour of Old & New Delhi with a Rickshaw Ride in Old Delhi**
- **Lunch at Q`BA Restaurant**
- **Visit to Gandhi House**
- **Afternoon at leisure**
- **Farewell Dinner Celebration**
- **Transfer to the Airport for flights to North America**

This morning we will have our Global Medicine lecture at the Hospital AIIMS for the Delegates. After the lecture, we will meet up with the rest of the group to go on our tour of Old and New Delhi. Delhi, the capital of India is nearly 5000 years old. Now a sprawling metropolis, Delhi has witnessed the rise and fall of many a regal dynasties. The rulers who have ruled here, tried to immortalise themselves by creating magnificent works of architecture. Even today the Delhi landscape is dotted with archaeological monuments and various places of architectural and cultural interest.



Rub shoulders with the old and the antique as we take you on a tour of Old Delhi. The myriad lanes and by-lanes conjure up intriguing memories of Delhi's historic past. Old Delhi was an ancient walled city. Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan in 1650 switched the Mughal capital from Agra to Delhi. Shah Jehan possessing an exquisite talent, especially in architecture, created the seventh city and in the process brought about Delhi's glorious renaissance. Start off with a cycle rickshaw ride through Old Delhi. You will drive past Red Fort the most opulent fort and palace of the Mughal Empire. The fort is Shah Jehan's symbol of power and elegance, built behind red sandstone walls. Its main gate (Lahore Gate) faces Chandni Chowk, the avenue filled with twisting lanes, small streets and crowded bazaars. If you peer through a portico you may see a man getting shaved, silver being weighed, or any other conceivable form of intense commerce. Also visit Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India; and Chandni Chowk, the bustling and colourful market of the old city. Chandni Chowk was the commercial centre of Delhi in the old time and you will see it come alive in the morning as the trading day starts.





After old Delhi sight seeing, lunch will be served at Q`BA. Centrally located in the inner circle of Connaught place, Q'BA restaurant and bar has quickly become the destination of choice for upmarket casual dining in the capitol region. Two floors, spanning 14,000 sq. feet, greet guests as an oasis in this busy metropolis.

After lunch, visit Gandhi House. Gandhi Smriti, is the sacred place where Mahatma Gandhi's epic life ended on 30 January 1948. Mahatma Gandhi had lived in this house from 9 September 1947 to 30 January 1948. The house treasures many memories of the last 144 days of his life. The Old Birla House was acquired by the Government of India in 1971 and was converted into a National Memorial of the Father of the Nation and was opened to the public on August 15, 1973. The house includes the room where Mahatma Gandhi lived and the prayer ground where he held a mass congregation every evening. It was here where assassin's bullets felled Gandhiji. The building and the landscape have been preserved as they were in those days. On display in the museum are photographs, sculptures, paintings, frescos, inscriptions on rocks and relics pertaining to the years Mahatma Gandhi spent here. The meagre personal effects of Gandhiji too are carefully preserved.

This afternoon will be at leisure at the hotel.

Our farewell dinner will be at the hotel this evening prior to the departure for flights to North America.

## OPTIONAL TOUR TO KASHMIR

**\$2899 – Companion Travels FREE**



### May 11- Delhi – Srinagar

- Flight from Delhi to Srinagar
- Transfer to your private House Boat on Dal Lake
- Welcome Drink of a Special Saffron Tea
- Lunch on your House Boat
- Shikara Boat Tour of Dal Lake
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Overnight on the House Boat

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport to board your mid morning flight over the Himalayas, to Srinagar.

You will be welcomed on arrival at the Srinagar airport and then you will be transferred to your private house boat on famous Dal Lake. Enjoy a welcome drink of Kashmir Kahwah. Kahwah is a green tea made with saffron, spices, and almonds or walnuts. Over 20 varieties of Kahwah are prepared in different households.

Lunch will be serviced on your private house boat.

Kashmir and its House Boats: Pleasant sounds of rolling waters, mist filled mornings, sunny afternoons and calm and serene evenings are some of the beautiful moments that can be



enjoyed in the land that is sometimes called the Venice of the East. A land dotted with natural landscapes, exotic mountain valleys, picturesque villages and comfortable houseboats, Kashmir has been rightly pronounced as Paradise on Earth. The Kashmir houseboats are associated closely with the valley's culture and traditions. Dating back to the British rule, houseboats became home to these people after they were denied land grants in the state. A brilliant idea that started from constructing small boats was later revolutionized with transforming these boats into spacious modern styled floating hotels. House boats are all made of the finest cedar wood that follows with intricate walnut wood carvings, paneled walls and tiled baths.



In the late afternoon, we will take a shikara ride on Dal Lake soaking in the sun overlooking the majestic Himalayas. The shikara communities have lived for centuries on the Dal, and so complete is their infrastructure on the lake, that they never have to step on land! Doctors, tailors, and bakers - you'll see them all in wooden shops on the lake, near veggie gardens and acres of lotus gardens.

Dinner will be at a local restaurant and you will stay overnight on your private house boat.

#### **May 12 - Srinagar**

- **Breakfast on your private House Boat**
- **Tour of Mughal Gardens**
- **Lunch at the Lalit Grand Palace**
- **Kashmiri Handicraft Shopping**
- **Dinner at a local restaurant**
- **Overnight on your private House Boat**



In the morning breakfast will be served on your house boat in the dining room or on the rooftop. After a leisurely start we will proceed to visit the famous Mughal Gardens of Kashmir. Shalimar Bagh, Emperor Jehangir's "Garden of Love", built for his beloved queen Nur Jehan in 1619, is famous because of their celebrated romance. The garden follows the traditional symmetrical pattern with a central stone channel carrying water through descending terraces in a delightful series of cascades, falls and pools. There are white marble pavilions on the first three terraces and a black

marble pavilion on the fourth - the baradari or summer house, which was reserved for the emperor and ladies of the court.

Nishat Bagh or the "Garden of Pleasure", designed in 1633 by Asaf Khan, brother of Nur Jehan, is the largest of the Mughal Gardens. Rising from Dal Lake in a series of gardened terraces and avenues of fountains playing against the blue mountain background, the gardens offer a beautiful view across the lake to the Pir Panjal range to the west.

The 12 terraces represent the signs of the zodiac and are planted with cypresses and cedars. The gardens also have the remains of some Mughal buildings including a double storey pavilion with latticed windows.

Chasma Shahi or the "Royal Spring" is the smallest of the gardens. The freshwater spring which supplies the fountains and falls in a fine cascade to the lower terrace is reputed to have medicinal properties. The garden, planned by Jehangir and completed by Shah Jehan in 1632, is situated in the slope of the circling hills with the still waters of the Dal Lake below.

Lunch will be served at The Chinar Restaurant in an open garden at The Lalit Grand Palace Hotel already steeped in the magnificent surroundings of the Dal lake and the beauty of the Srinagar valley, complimented with the vivid memories of the palace; a steaming cup of Kahwa along with the freshly baked coconut macaroons will be served, followed by lunch. This restaurant is under the cool shade of the 120 years old historic Chinar (maple).

**Kashmiri Handicraft Shopping:** This afternoon, shop for some of the most beautiful and unique handicrafts that Kashmir is famous for. Kashmir boasts an unrivalled tradition of craftsmanship and some of its specialties are finely carved and chiselled woodwork of walnut and oak; brilliantly coloured and painted papier-mâché; chain stitch embroidered rugs; crewel work; leather and fur; onyx and semi-precious stones and beautifully worked silver. Another specialty is shawl-making - the pashmina goat's wool of extreme fineness and intricate embroidery and the even finer shahtoosh or 'ring' shawl, so called because it can pass through a ring. One of the best known and most popular handicrafts for which Kashmir is famous is the variety and design of its carpets. The art of weaving carpets, which first came from Samarkand in Central Asia, was later modified by artisans from Iran and given a new direction during Emperor Jahangir's reign when the Persian knot style of weaving was brought in by Kashmiri craftsmen. This art can be observed in one of the factories, where weavers work on hand looms with wool and silk.



**Dinner will be served at a local restaurant and you will stay overnight on your private houseboat.**

#### **May 14 - Srinagar**

- **Breakfast on your private House Boat**
- **Excursion to Gulmarg**
- **Lunch at Highland Park**
- **Visit to Dachigam National Park**
- **Kashmir Wazwan Dinner**
- **Overnight on your private House Boat**



After breakfast on the houseboat, drive to Gulmarg (2 hours) the "Meadow of Flowers", situated at an altitude of 2730 m. The valley of Gulmarg is a broad bowl of sloping meadows fringed by gigantic fir and pine forests. The air is crisp and cool. From here one gets magnificent views of the surrounding Himalayan ranges with Nanga Parbat visible to the north, Haramukh to the south and the Apharwat ridge and Sunset Peak to the east.

Gulmarg boasts one of the highest natural golf courses in the world and is also a winter sports resort with some of the finest ski slopes in the country. You can walk up a few kilometres to Khilanmarg, an upland meadow carpeted with wild flowers in the spring, which offers a memorable and unrivaled spectacle of snow capped peaks and the shimmering waters of Wular and other lakes in the Kashmir valley. This is also the site of Gulmarg's winter ski runs.

**Optional Golf Tour** (departure is at 06:30 AM): After an early breakfast you will proceed to Gulmarg for your game of golf. Afterwards, you will meet the rest of the group for lunch. Kashmir offers outstanding opportunities for the golf players all through the summer - from April to November - in inspiring surroundings, through trees of Chinar and pine. The Gulmarg Golf Club was established in the early days of the British rule by Sir Neville Chamberlain. The golf course at Gulmarg is situated at an incredibly high altitude of 3730 metres above sea level and is surrounded by a lush green trees, alpine flowers and crises crossed by snow fed streams and rivulets; gently twisting slopes covered with a natural mossy terrain, and a crispy cool caressing weather. The golf course was redesigned by the famous golf architect, Peter Thompson. Today its has a 6,760 yards, par 72, 18 hole. The layout of the course too is strikingly different from most golf courses - hardly any stretch is flat - the land slopes and inclines along the complete area of the course which has a par of 72. This highest golf course in the world, also boasts of India's longest hole, a par five, 610 yards.

The most interesting and trying hole on the Gulmarg, course is unquestionably the 17th. Although not very long, it calls for some precise hitting to land on the green which is daringly placed on the edge of a cliff. The 18th hole, a par five, is a thrilling experience. Its downhill crosses from St. Mary's Church to the club house, a drop of 300 feet.

Lunch will be served at Highland Park. Hotel Highland Park is a heritage property spread over 8 acres of flower-carpeted and pine-forested hillsides. Established in 1966, Highlands Park has hosted Presidents, Prime Ministers and visiting royalty. Currently managed by the third generation of the Nedou family, the hotel cherishes its tradition of war hospitality. After lunch we will visit Dachigam National Park. Dachigam National Park is located 22 kilometers from Srinagar. It covers an area of 141 square kilometers. The name of the park literally stands for "ten villages". The park has been a protected area since 1910, first under the care of the Maharaja of Kashmir and later



under the observation of the concerned government authorities. It was initially created to ensure clean drinking water supply for the city of Srinagar. It was finally upgraded and declared a National Park in the year 1981. The main animal species that Dachigam is most famous for are: Musk Deer, Leopards, Himalayan Grey Langurs, Himalayan Black Bears, Himalayan Brown Bears, Jackals, Hill Fox, Himalayan Weasels, Yellow-throated Martens, and Long-tailed Marmot.

This evening we will participate in a Kashmiri Wazwan Dinner: Wazwan a multi-course meal in the Kashmiri tradition. Its preparation is considered to be an art. Almost all the dishes are meat-based (lamb, chicken, fish), but beef is never prepared. The traditional number of courses for the wazwan is thirty-six, though there can be fewer. The preparation is traditionally done by a vasta waza, or head chef, with the assistance of a court of wazas, or chefs. Wazwan is regarded by the Kashmiri Muslims as a core element of their culture and identity. Guests are grouped into fours for the serving of the wazwan. The meal begins with a ritual washing of hands, as a jug and basin called the tash-t-nari are passed among the guests. A large serving dish piled high with heaps of rice, decorated and quartered by four seekh kababs, four pieces of meth maaz, two tabak maaz, sides of barbecued ribs, and one safed kokur, one zafrani kokur, along with other dishes. The meal is accompanied by yoghurt garnished with Kashmiri saffron, salads, Kashmiri pickles and dips. Kashmiri Wazwan is generally prepared for weddings and other special functions. The culinary art is learned through heredity and is rarely passed on to outside blood relations. This has made certain waza families very prominent. The wazas are in great demand during wedding season (May - October). Over night stay on your private house boat.

#### **May 14 - Srinagar – Delhi**

- **Option Tour: Early Morning Visit to the Floating Market**
- **Breakfast on your private House Boat**
- **Transfer to the Airport for your flight to Delhi**
- **Check in at the Hotel Taj Mahal**
- **Dinner at the Hotel Taj Mahal**
- **Transfer to the Airport for your flight to North America**

**Option Tour: Early morning visit a floating market.** This morning, wake up before dawn to take a shikara ride to see the floating market, a huge attraction in Srinagar. The market takes place every morning at sunrise and is where all fresh produce in the city is sold. All the local fruit and vegetable producers come to sell while all the hotels and fresh produce shops come to buy. The only thing fixed about this market is its location and start time. Apart from that all business happens while the shikaras float on a small area of Dal Lake. As you can imagine, it is quite a colorful scene with fresh cauliflower, onion, carrots, lotus root, and flowers for sale, to name just a few. In addition, the colorful characters buying and selling as well as all the tourists and their cameras make for an amazing and photogenic scene.



After breakfast you will be transferred to Srinagar Airport for your flight to Delhi. Upon arrival into Delhi, we will transfer to the Hotel Taj Mahal and the afternoon will be at leisure. This evening, we will have our farewell dinner prior to departing to the airport for flights back to North America.



## KEY INFORMATION

### Time Zone

India is +5.30 over GMT

### Visas

It is compulsory that all foreign travellers possess a valid visa for visiting India. All visas are the responsibility of the traveller and are to be obtained before arrival into India. If the tour involves more than one visit to any country (including transit) we recommend multiple entry visas should be obtained. Visa fees vary from country to country. Please check with the local diplomatic mission of the countries to be visited.

### Climate

The Indian sub-continent is large and the climate varies from one part to another. This gives you a wide selection of climates to suit your holiday needs - from the cold slopes of the Himalayas to the sunny beaches of the Goan coast. The region has three major seasons - winter, summer and the monsoon.

### Health

Tourists coming to India via Africa and South America or any other yellow fever infected areas must have a yellow fever vaccination certificate. Bottled drinking water is easily available throughout your tour. If you are taking any specific medication, it is advisable for you to bring it along as locally available formulations may vary. However, world-class medical facilities are available.

### Language

The region has a plethora of languages, which vary from state to state. English is widely spoken throughout the sub-continent.

### Foreign Currency & Customs

Foreign Exchange can be brought in without limit. Large amounts many need to be declared on arrival and a certificate issued against this to facilitate easy reconversion on departure. Tourists are warned that changing money through unauthorized persons is not only illegal but also involves the risk of receiving counterfeit currency. There are 24-hour exchange facilities available at all big cities and international airports.

### Electricity, Communications, Opening Hours

Voltage in most places is 220 volts AC with points for 110 volts available in many hotels. You can fax and make international telephone calls from almost every place you visit. Banks are usually open from 10 am to 2 pm Monday to Friday and till 12 noon on Saturday. Many branches also offer extended banking hours. Many foreign money exchange outlets work later as well, with hotels offering round the clock money-changing facilities. General office working hours are 9.30 am till 5.30 pm. Shops usually remain open from 9.30 am to 7.00 pm

## TESTIMONIALS

*This was a well planned, well executed CME. I'll recommend it to colleagues.*

**Dr. E. Udoeyop, Cornwall ON**

*At CMEatSEA you really are treated as 'family'.*

**Dr. Bob Thompson, Drayton Valley AB**

*This adventure was without a doubt the best of our five CME trips: dramatic in ways we could never have anticipated. It is difficult to identify highlights in such a successful journey but the outstanding event was Lunch on the Great Wall. That is unlikely to ever be equaled. Close seconds were the sampan races, Geiko evening, the tea ceremony and the kids at Wanzou.*

**Dr. Robert Fairbairn, Chatham ON**

*Well worthwhile. Refreshing approach to CME.*

**Dr. Peter Methven, Langley BC**

*My wife and I were overwhelmed by your hospitality, efficiency and excellence on this trip. We want to thank everybody that made this trip such a super experience. We will definitely see you on a future program! Thank you again!*

**Dr. Fanie De Nysschen, Cabri SK**

*I really enjoyed the CMEatSEA and our 1st cruise. It was a very good balance of life, vacation and education. The CMEatSEA was very well organized.*

**Dr. Dennis Dahl, Moose Factory ON**

*Enjoyed every single day on the ship – in the meetings and excursions. Speakers were excellent and planning superb. Looking forward to further learning and adventure.*

**Dr. Margaret Austrup, Waterloo ON**

*As you advertise – a trip of a lifetime.*

**Dr. Denis Lacroix, Hearst ON**

*Overall, the experience was fantastic. The attention to detail and organization was great. It was wonderful to not have to wrestle with our luggage. The shore excursions and activities were wonderful.*

**Dr. Winston Jong, Mississauga ON**

*This was the best organized of the 3 cruises that I have presented at. Your attention to detail was amazing. Family felt part of the experience.*

**Dr. Roman Jovey (presenter), Mississauga ON**



**\*\*\*FREE AIR - Companion Travels and Flies FREE. Delegate Flight included**

<b>Accommodation Rates:*</b>	<b>Delegate</b>	<b>Companion</b>	<b>CME Fee</b>	
Club Verandah Stateroom	\$28999	FREE	Delegate	\$1795
Club Ocean View Stateroom	\$27999	FREE	Partner Program	\$1195
Club Interior Stateroom	\$26499	FREE	<b>Cruise</b>	
			<b>Taxes/Fees/Gratuities:</b>	
<i>Suites available – please call for details and pricing</i>			Per person	\$485

**Payment Information:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Deposit (due at the time of booking)	\$5000	<b>Kashmir Post Package</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Deposit due July 1, 2012	\$5000	\$2899 per couple

\*\*\*Pricing Subject to Availability and Change - FREE Air is from JFK or YYZ

**India Cancellation Fees:**

181+ days in advance	No cancellation fee
180-150 days in advance	10% of the total price
149-120 days in advance	20% of the total price
119-90 days in advance	50% of the total price
89-60 days in advance	75% of the total price
59-0 days in advance	Non-refundable

\* Package prices include FREE Air; non-medical travel insurance (out of country medical insurance extra); all on board accommodation, meals, activities and events as described;.

\*\*Free Air from New York. Low air add-ons from other gateways available. Please call for more details. Air credit is \$1000 USD per stateroom if you choose to not take the FREE Air from YYZ or New York. Business Class air upgrades will be available

**Final Payment is due November 17, 2012**

All funds stated in USD dollars.

CMEatSEA reserves the right to change or cancel course content, speaker or topics for cause. The itinerary, hotels, restaurants and tours are subject to change.



# INDIA Registration Form USD

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size (S, M, L, XL) \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Surname (complete name as it appears on your passport)

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Bus.:(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Home: :(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: :(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Partner Name: \_\_Dr \_\_Mr. \_\_Mrs. \_\_Ms. \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Surname (complete name as it appears on your passport)

VIP Partner Program: \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No Shirt Size (S, M, L, XL) Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION RATES (circle your choice):

**April 17 – May 10, 2013 FREE AIR\*\***

<b>Destination:</b>	India	
<b>Conference:</b>	Diabetes Update 2013	
<b>Package Rates:*</b>	Delegate	Companion
Club Verandah Stateroom	\$28999	FREE
Club Ocean View Stateroom	\$27999	FREE
Club Interior Stateroom	\$26499	FREE
<b>Kashmir Post Package</b>	\$2899	FREE

### CME Fee:

Delegate	\$1795
Partner Program	\$1195

**Cruise Taxes/Gratuities:** \$485 per person

**Payment Information:** \$5000 per couple due at the time of deposit  
\$5000 2<sup>nd</sup> deposit per couple due on July 1<sup>st</sup>

\*Package prices include all on board accommodation, meals, beverages where mentioned; activities and events; beverages as described; non-medical travel insurance (out of country medical insurance additional) and FREE air from YYZ or JFK.

**Final Payment is due November 17, 2012. Please see the revised Cancellation Penalties for the India Program at [www.CMEatSEA.org](http://www.CMEatSEA.org).**

All funds stated in USD

CMEatSEA reserves the right to change or cancel course content, speaker or topics for cause. The itinerary, hotels, restaurants and tours are subject to change.

### Payment Method

\_\_\_Visa \_\_\_MasterCard\_\_\_AMEX \_\_\_Cheque (Payable to Cruise Connections Canada) **TOTAL DEPOSIT** \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize Cruise Connections Canada on behalf of CMEatSEA to charge the credit card provided for the fee indicated. I am aware that all charges are subject to applicable taxes.

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_