

## Group Itinerary – February 2024

**Welcome! Here is our outline that will form the basis of our journey together. It does not yet include the laughter, new friendships, adventures and unexpected events that are key elements of my trips!**

### **Feb. 29: Thursday**

**Namaste and Welcome to India Hotel: [President Mumbai IHCL SeleQtions](#). (Mumbai)**

If you arrive a day early there is an Optional pre-tour to Elephanta. The **Elephanta Caves** are a collection of cave temples predominantly dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, which have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. They are on Elephanta Island, or *Gharapuri* (literally "the city of caves"), in Mumbai Harbour, (6.2 mi) east of Mumbai in the Indian state of Mahārāshtra. The island, about (1.2 mi) west of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port, consists of five Hindu caves, a few Buddhist stupa mounds that date back to the 2nd century BCE, and two Buddhist caves with water tanks.

Those of us who arrive in time will gather dinner on our own. TBD and begin to get to know each other.

### **Mar.1: Friday**

#### **Mumbai**

Breakfast at hotel. **(All Breakfasts are included)**

Visit synagogues that reflect the thriving presence of the Bene Israel and Baghdadi Jews: Magen David and Tipheret Israel. Tour the city of Mumbai: Marvel at the Dhobi Ghat, an immense, colorful outdoor laundry. See where *Slumdog Millionaire* was filmed. Learn about India's multifaceted religious heritage at a Hindu temple.

After lunch (on our own), optional walk through the village surrounding the Banganga Tank, a sacred pool hidden in the luxurious locality of Malabar Hill.

Return to hotel to get ready for Shabbat services and a sumptuous kosher Indian-Baghdadi dinner with the community at the Kneseth Eliyahu synagogue. Walk back to hotel. Overnight in Mumbai.

[Meal: Shabbat Dinner](#)

Our Shabbat dinner in the Synagogue will be with the community. We will gather back at the hotel for our official opener- if we can keep our eyes open☺

### **Mar. 2: Saturday**

#### **Mumbai**

Walk to the Kneseth Eliyahu Synagogue for Shabbat services and a gourmet kosher Baghdadi feast. After lunch, optional heritage walk featuring the David Sassoon Library and Prince of Wales Museum with its huge collections of art, archaeology, and natural history.

[We will gather for Havdalah to commemorate the end of Shabbat and continue our getting to know each other.](#)

Overnight in Mumbai.

[Dinner on your own. Try the selection of Mumbai curries with paneer \(Local cheese\)](#)

Pack for next day travel.

Meal: Lunch

### **Mar. 3: Sunday**

#### **Mumbai - Cochin**

Fly to Cochin, (about 2 hours) on the southern tip of the Indian peninsula. Cochin was once home to another flourishing Jewish community. Today only 21 Jews remain.

Visit the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Chennamangalam Synagogue and museum. Its close proximity to a Hindu temple, church and mosque highlights India's religious tolerance. Stop at the Parur Synagogue, an architectural gem dating from 1616. All aboard for a lush backwater tour along Kerala's local canals.

**Hotel:** Check-in to **Holiday Inn**.

**Dinner on our own.** Try the paratha and local fish flavors.

Overnight in Cochin.

Meal: Lunch

### **Mar. 4: Monday**

#### **Cochin**

(Possible Early Yoga at the hotel if interest)\*

Visit the dramatic Chinese fishing nets and walk along Jew Street to the exquisite 450-year-old Paradesi Synagogue in Mattancherry. Explore the area's antique shops and spice markets and visit the Dutch Palace.

Enjoy a Kathakali dance drama before dinner

**Dinner on your own:** Try the Dosas/breads/pancakes made of lentil flour.

Overnight in Cochin: Time to pack

Meal: Lunch

### **Mar. 5: Tuesday**

#### **Cochin – Bangalore - Varanasi**

Visit the amazing synagogue in Ernakulam, part of Cochin (it's hidden behind an aquarium and garden shop). Transfer to the airport for flight to Varanasi.

**Varanasi**, one of the holiest cities of Hindus, has a fascinating array of shrines, temples and palaces rising in several tiers from the water's edge. It is also a city of fairs and festivals, celebrating about 400 of them during the year.

Arrival assistance and transfer to **Hotel Madin**.

Meal: Lunch

Overnight at Varanasi.

Dinner on our own: Try the Malaiyyo is another iconic dessert- with cardamom, pistachio, cream, and saffron is added to milk.

### **Mar. 6: Wednesday**

#### **Varanasi**

Early morning boat excursion on the holy river Ganges to see the bathing ghats and cremation site. Watch people bathing and worshipping at the Ghats—one of the most extraordinary experiences of a visit to India.

After breakfast at the hotel, half-day sightseeing tour of the city including the Bharat Mata Temple with a marble relief map of India; Durga Temple, Tulsi Manas Mandir.

Afternoon excursion to Sarnath, the buried Buddhist city where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon. Sarnath was a renowned school of learning from the 6th century BCE to the 12th century. Evening tour of Ganges ghats to witness the Aarti ceremony.

Overnight at Varanasi.

Meal: Lunch

### **Mar. 7: Thursday**

#### **Varanasi - Delhi**

Fly to Delhi (about 2 hours) and check-in to **the Lalit**.

We visit a Judah Hyam synagogue in Delhi and talk about the small Jewish community in the city. Option to explore the markets of Delhi, Khan Market

Meal: Lunch

Dinner of our Own: Try Battar Marsala, (tomato based curries) plus roti and naan wheat based breads

Overnight in Delhi.

### **Mar. 8: Friday**

#### **Delhi – Dharamshala**

Transfer to airport for flight to Dharamshala.( about 2 hours)

Arrival assistance and transfer to **Fortune Moksha**. After lunch embark on a guided tour to visit the Dalai Lama temple and Namgyal Monastery at McLeodganj which is opposite the residency of the Dalai Lama. Continue your journey to explore the Tibet Museum.

This is the place where Reb Zalman and his entourage met with the Dalai Lama/Jew in the Lotus

( <https://www.dalailama.com>)

Overnight at Dharamshala.

Meal: Lunch + Try the Tibetan local food, momos dumplings

Dinner - Our own Shabbat dinner

### **Mar. 9: Saturday**

#### **Dharamshala / McLeodganj**

Whatever we didn't finish seeing on Friday we will see Saturday☺

Or Rest, Indulge in leisure. There is a spa in the hotel, relax or peruse Tibetan shops

Experience yoga in India?

On 29 April 1959, the 14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) established the Tibetan exile administration in the north Indian hill station of Mussoorie. In May 1960, the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) was moved to Dharamshala, making it the centre of the Tibetan exile world in India. Following the 1959 Tibetan uprising there was an influx of Tibetan refugees who followed the 14th Dalai Lama. His presence and the Tibetan population have made Dharamshala a destination for Indian and foreign tourists, including students studying Tibet. Explore on your own.

Overnight at Dharamshala.

Meal: Lunch

Havdalah gathering to end Shabbat

**Dinner on our own:** [Try a meal with local Tibetan fare](#)

### **Mar. 10: Sunday**

#### **Dharamshala - Delhi**

Fly to Delhi.

Drive past the India Gate and the official residence of the president of India.

Visit Raj Ghat, the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi. Experience an unforgettable bicycle rickshaw ride through the narrow, bustling lanes of Old Delhi

Marvel at Humayun's Tomb, built in 1570, which inspired the Taj Mahal.

See the fascinating Sikh Temple and learn about the religion and customs.

Check-in to [the Lalit](#).

Overnight at Delhi.

Meal: Lunch

Dinner on our own: [Try the Biryani, specialties of the region.](#)

### **Mar. 11: Monday**

#### **Delhi – Agra**

Depart for Agra. Check-in to [Courtyard by Marriott](#). Marvel at the city's Red Fort. Visit the awe-inspiring Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, built by the emperor Shah Jahan in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Overnight at Agra. Hotel TBD

Meal: Lunch

Dinner on our own. [Try Tandoori dishes and different breads.](#)

### **Mar. 12: Tuesday**

#### **Agra - Jaipur**

Drive to Jaipur, the "Pink City of India."

The capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur is nestled in India's mountains.

Check-in to [Ramada Hotel](#).

Enjoy a home hospitality dinner with an award-winning Chef. We will get an intro to Indian culture. Jaipur is known for its **jewelry**, and we will have time for shopping.

Overnight in Jaipur.

Meals: Lunch + dinner

### **Mar. 13: Wednesday**

#### **Jaipur**

Prepare to be awed by the Amber Fort, the ancient citadel of Jaipur's rulers, and ride an elephant! Stop at the city palace and the Jantar Mantar observatory. Take time to shop in this beautiful city, known for textiles, and carpets. Overnight in Jaipur.

Meal: Lunch

Dinner on our own: [Try the Thali, a selection of many different flavors, Lassi \(yogurt based drink\).](#)

**Mar. 14: Thursday****Jaipur – Delhi**

After breakfast, drive to Delhi and flight home or to next destination.

Meal: Lunch

**Hotels**

<b>City</b>	<b>Selected Hotels or similar</b>	<b>Nights</b>
Mumbai	President Mumbai IHCL SeleQtions	3
Cochin	Holiday Inn	2
Varanasi	Hotel Madin	2
Delhi	The Lalit	1
Dharamshala	Fortune Moksha	2
Delhi	The Lalit	1
Agra	Courtyard by Marriott	1
Jaipur	Ramada	2

**Costs**

- \$5,250 pp double occupancy.
- \$6,565 single occupancy.

**Cost includes:**

- 15 days, 14 nights at the mentioned / similar hotels.
- 14 breakfasts, 13 Lunches, 3 dinners.
- All sightseeing costs.
- All travel within India, including flights, transfers, and air-conditioned buses.
- Fully escorted by highly experienced, English-speaking guide from arrival until departure.
- Specialized talks about Jewish India and get-togethers with members of the local Jewish communities.
- Boat ride and rickshaw ride in Varanasi.
- Elephant ride in Jaipur.
- All current applicable taxes.
- Fun and a great time!

**What is NOT included:**

- International airfare and visa fees.
- Gratuities for guides and drivers.
- Travel insurance

**Notes -**

If we cancel we will refund, If you cancel deposit is non-refundable

Deposit needed at registration 1000 \$ (Buy Travel insurance to cover any cancelations☺)

**Register by August 18 and I'll buy you lunch in India!**

**Balance due Nov 20**

We accept Zelle, Venmo and check, credit card or if out of the US we will need bank information

Everyone must have travel insurance.

Please check with your doctor for vaccine shot recommendations. Please be vaccinated against Covid.

This is a Jewish content tour, not a shomer Shabbat traditional experience. We will have our own version of shabbat observance. There will be options for walkers and those who need a ride.

\*In some cities it will be possible to have yoga sessions at the hotel. Please indicate your interest.

**Optional Add-Ons:**

- Pre-Tour  
Mumbai day tour of Elephanta Island, a 7<sup>th</sup>- century Hindu cave and World Heritage site: \$100 per person. Other optional day tours also available.
- Post-Tours:  
Option A: Three nights, (Jodhpur and Udaipur)  
Option B: Five nights, (Udaipur, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer).

## **SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE REGISTRATION FORM**

Name as per the passport	
Address	
Telephone	
Mobile	
Email-id	
Date of Birth	
Passport issuing country	
Passport number	
Passport expiry date	
Room preference	Single: Double: Twin:
Post Tour: Rajasthan Option A / B	Yes / No -
Any specific requests	
Emergency contact details	Name: Relationship: Contact number:

**Time of flight (day, flight number):**

**Any mobility issues?**

**If traveling solo, would you like to be paired? We will if we can!**

**Dietary needs: kosher/vegetarian/vegan/eat everything?**

**Other concerns we need to know?**

**Gift you bring to the group (song leading, able to teach...):**

**My kavvanah/intention for this trip is:**

**Authorized signature:**



# **PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT**

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **Cost includes:**

- 15 days, 14 nights at the mentioned / similar hotels.
- 14 breakfasts, 13 Lunches, 3 dinners.
- All sightseeing costs.
- All travel within India, including flights, transfers, and air-conditioned buses.
- Fully escorted by highly experienced, English-speaking guide from arrival until departure.
- Specialized talks about Jewish India and get-togethers with members of the local Jewish communities.
- Boat ride and rickshaw ride in Varanasi.
- Elephant ride in Jaipur.
- All current applicable taxes.

### **Payments, Cancellations, and Refunds**

The deposit of \$1000 is nonrefundable. The nonrefundable balance/final payment is due 90 days in advance of tour departure. Travel insurance is highly recommended.

Passengers who reserve a double room and are sharing with a friend or family member will be subject to the single supplement if that person cancels prior to departure.

### **Responsibilities**

JI Tours Pvt. Ltd. (Operator) and associated companies and individuals shall not be held liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity that may result from any defect of any vehicle or through the acts of any company or person engaged in conveying the passengers, or any hotel/ship proprietor or employees. Operator and associated companies and individuals accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to but not limited to delays or changes in schedules, sickness, weather, strikes, war, quarantine, acts of God, acts of government, acts of terrorism, riots, or other circumstances.

Participant expressly agrees to forever release, discharge, and hold Operator, its agents, and associated companies and individuals harmless against any and all liability, actions, causes of actions, suits, claims, and demands of any and every kind and nature whatsoever that you now have or that may hereafter arise out of or in connection with Tour or participation in any activities in which you participate.

Itineraries are subject to change. The right is reserved to withdraw any feature announced in this program and to make alterations in the itinerary for the convenience and proper running of the Tour.

The right is reserved to decline, accept, or retain any passenger as a member of the group without refund, compensation, or credit. Passengers who are removed from the Tour are responsible for their own travel expenses home.

### **Medical Care**

Operator is not responsible for the provision of medical care including but not limited to medical care provided under any travel protection and insurance plan. Passengers shall indemnify and reimburse Operator in the event of emergency medical care, including transportation and lodging.

**Passports and Visas**

Passports must be valid for six months after the completion of the Tour. Visas required. Non-US citizens should contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements. Operator is not responsible for making sure Participant has proper documentation.

**Photos and Videos**

Participant consents to Operator's use of pictures or videos from Tour in marketing materials without compensation. Participant may not take pictures, videos, or voice recordings for commercial purposes without consent of Tour leaders.

**Arbitration and Waiver of Litigation**

Participant agrees to present any claims within thirty (30) days after the Tour ends and to file any suit within one (1) year of the incident, and you acknowledge that this expressly limits the applicable statute of limitations to one (1) year. In lieu of litigation, which is expressly waived, any dispute concerning, relating to, or referring to this Participant Agreement or any other literature concerning the Tour shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration in Mumbai, India, according to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996. Such proceeding will be governed by the substantive law of India. The arbitrator(s) and not any Indian federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this Participant Agreement, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this Participant Agreement is void or voidable.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tour Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Today's Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Post-Tour: Rajasthan – Option A

### Mar. 14: Thursday

#### Jaipur – Jodhpur

Breakfast at hotel. Travel to Jodhpur, stronghold of the fierce Rathore clan. The city was founded in 1459 by Prince Jodha . Visit the Mehrangarh Fort, situated on a low sandstone hill. Within the fort, visit Moti Mahal and Phool Mahal. Also visit Jaswant Thada , an imposing marble cenotaph, built in memory of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II, and Umaid Public Gardens. Overnight in Jodhpur.

### Mar. 15: Friday

#### Narlai – Udaipur

After breakfast & checkout from hotel, depart for Udaipur. Stop at Ranakpur to visit the Jain temple.

Arrive at Udaipur and check-in to the hotel. Udaipur, the city of lakes, is admired for its fairytale palaces, lakes, temples, and gardens. Built in 1559 CE by Maharaja Udai Singh, the city has been described as the most romantic spot in India. Overnight in Udaipur.

### Mar. 16: Saturday

#### Udaipur

City sightseeing tour including the City Palace, Zenana Mahal, Fateh Prakash, Durbar Hall and Shambhu Niwas. Also visit Jagdish temple, Sahelion-ki-Bari (queen's resort for the friends). Walk through the colorful local markets. Evening cruise on the waters of Lake Pichola. Overnight in Udaipur.

### Mar. 17: Sunday

#### Udaipur – Delhi

After breakfast, transfer to airport for flight to Delhi and next flight home.

### Hotels

City	Selected Hotels or similar	Nights
Jodhpur	Ajit Bhawan / Radisson	1
Udaipur	Fateh Garh	2

### Based on a minimum of 2 people

Double: \$1,895 pp

Single: \$2,350 pp

### PACKAGE INCLUDES

- ✓ Assistance on arrival and departure.
- ✓ Accommodations and breakfasts.
- ✓ Exclusive A/C vehicle for transfers and sightseeing.
- ✓ Entrance to the monuments.
- ✓ English speaking local guide during the sightseeing tour.

- ✓ Flights: Udaipur-Delhi.
- ✓ Boat ride on Lake Pichola in Udaipur with other guests.
- ✓ All currently applicable taxes.

**PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- ⊗ Personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, gratuities, liquor.

## **Post-Tour: Rajasthan – Option B**

### **Mar. 14: Thursday**

#### **Jaipur – Udaipur**

Fly to Udaipur, the city of lakes, is admired for its fairy-tale palaces, lakes, temples, and gardens. Built in 1559 CE by Maharaja Udai Singh, the city has been described as the most romantic spot in India. Evening cruise on the waters of Lake Pichola.

Overnight in Udaipur.

### **Mar. 15: Friday**

#### **Udaipur**

City sightseeing tour including the City Palace, Zenana Mahal, Fateh Prakash, Durbar Hall and Shambhu Niwas. Also visit Jagdish temple, Sahelion-ki-Bari (queen's resort for the friends). Overnight in Udaipur.

### **Mar. 16: Saturday**

#### **Udaipur – Jodhpur**

Travel to Jodhpur, stronghold of the fierce Rathore clan. The city was founded in 1459 by Prince Jodha. Stop at Ranakpur Jain temples on the way.

Visit the Mehrangarh Fort, situated on a low sandstone hill. Within the fort, visit Moti Mahal and Phool Mahal. Also visit Jaswant Thada, an imposing marble cenotaph, built in memory of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II, and Umaid Public Gardens. Overnight in Jodhpur.

### **Mar. 17: Sunday**

#### **Jodhpur – Jaisalmer**

After breakfast drive to Jaisalmer, located deep inside the famous Thar Desert in Rajasthan, intrigues visitors with its tales of unequalled valor by courageous rulers and citizens of bygone eras. It is unique in its beauty and undaunted spirit. Overnight in Jaisalmer.

### **Mar. 18: Monday**

#### **Jaisalmer**

After breakfast, leave for sightseeing. Jaisalmer Fort is famously known as the Golden Fort of Rajasthan due to the golden and yellow mixed sandstone with which it was constructed by Raja Jaisal, Rajput ruler in 156 CE. It ranks among the largest forts in the world. With its 99 turrets rising from the desert sands like a mirage, the fort is a magical sight to behold.

Bada Bagh (“Huge Garden”), was constructed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by Maharawal Jait Singh and his son Lunakaran. The garden, which offers stunning views and beautiful photographic moments—especially during sunrise and sunset—served as a memorial where the nobles and their families were cremated.

Patwon-Ki-Haveli, located in the main city, was built by a famous trader named Guman Chand and his sons. This massive five-storied yellow sandstone construction has five huge and intricately decorated suites. The large corridors and the decorated walls are excellent representations of the prevailing art form. The grandeur and architecture of the monument add immense value to the cultural heritage of the city. Out of the five havelis, one is converted into a museum.

Dunes: Set off on camelback or jeep for a desert safari from Sam Sand Dunes. Travel along crests and troughs and watch the picturesque desert sunset. Overnight at hotel.

**Mar. 19: Tuesday**

**Jaisalmer – Delhi**

After breakfast, transfer to airport for flight to Delhi and next flight home.

**Hotels**

City	Selected Hotels or similar	Nights
Udaipur	Fateh Garh	2
Jodhpur	Ajit Bhawan / Radisson	1
Jaisamer	Rang Mahal	2

**Based on a minimum of 2 people**

Double: \$2,390 pp

Single: \$3,060 pp

**PACKAGE INCLUDES**

- ✓ Assistance on arrival and departure.
- ✓ Accommodations and breakfasts.
- ✓ Exclusive A/C vehicle for transfers and sightseeing.
- ✓ Entrance to the monuments.
- ✓ English speaking local guide during the sightseeing tour.
- ✓ Flights: Jaipur – Udaipur and Jaisalmer - Delhi.
- ✓ Boat ride on Lake Pichola in Udaipur with other guests.
- ✓ All currently applicable taxes.

**PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- ⊗ Personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, gratuities, liquor.