



Architecture of Western India 15 Days/14 Nights

	Activities	Overnight
Day 1	Fly U.S. to Mumbai	Mumbai
Day 2	Morning visit to the Elephanta cave temples. This complex was built in the 6 th century A.D. and contains many superb Indian sculptures, including a magnificent three-headed bust of Shiva that is 18-feet tall. Afternoon tour of historic Mumbai. Highlights include the Gateway of India (George Wittet), Victoria Terminus (Frederick William Stevens), the General Post Office (John Begg), Crawford Market (William Emerson), Mumbai Town Hall (Col. Thomas Cowper), the Kala Ghoda neighborhood, The Prince of Wales Museum (Wittet) and the Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg neighborhood. Architectural styles to be viewed include Neo-Classical, Edwardian, Venetian and Victorian Gothic, Indo-Saracenic, Moorish, Gujarati and Art Deco.	Mumbai
Day 3	Full day tour of Navi Mumbai, the largest planned city in the world. Originally conceived in 1964 by Charles Correa, Shirish Patel and Pravina Desai, this region was designed to alleviate the population congestion of Mumbai in a thoughtful manner to minimize proactively urban sprawl. Highlights include innovative housing projects by Correa, Raj Rewal, Hafeez Contractor and S. K. Das. On our drive to Navi Mumbai we will view several highlights of modern Mumbai, such as Thapar House (Hafeez), High Street Phoenix (Callison/505design), Kanchanjunga Apartments (Correa) and the Bandra-Worli Sea Link.	Mumbai
Day 4	Morning flight to Ahmedabad. Upon arrival, we will begin our tour of old Ahmedabad, a maze of temples, mosques, bazaars and underground stepwells. Highlights include Siddi Saiyad's Mosque, the Teen Darwaza, Jami Masjid, Rani Rupmati's Mosque and Swaminarayan Temple. Many of these beautifully decorated structures were built between the 13 th and 16 th centuries. This afternoon we will also visit Adalaj Vav, the finest stepwell in Gujarat. Build in 1499, this elaborately carved well was constructed to store water and to provide a pleasant space for social gatherings.	Ahmedabad
Day 5	Today we will visit highlights of modern Ahmedabad - a collection of post-independence buildings designed by renowned architects. Sites to be visited include: the Sanskar Kendra, the Mill Owner's Association and Sarabhai House (Le Corbusier); Tagore Memorial Hall, the Hussain-Doshi Gufa and Sangath (B. V. Doshi); The Indian Institute of Management (Louis Kahn/Anant Raje/Bimal Patel); the Gujarat High Court (Patel); and the	Ahmedabad

Gandhi Smarak Sangrhalaya (Correa).

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| Day 6 | Morning visit to the Sun Temple at Modhera, which was built in 1026 by King Bhima I of the Solanki dynasty. The temple halls in this complex are perfectly aligned along an east-west axis such that the sun's rays stream through them and illuminate the inner sanctum at noon every day. Our next stop is the town of Patan, home to Rani ni Vav, a beautiful Gujarati stepwell built in the 11 th century by Queen Udaymati as a memorial to her husband. This will be followed by a visit to the famous Patola double-ikat weavers of Patan. Continue driving to Udaipur in Rajasthan, arriving in time for dinner. | Udaipur |
| Day 7 | Morning visit to the City Palace, the largest palace complex in Rajasthan. The various buildings in the palace were built by 22 different maharanas between the 16 th and 20 th centuries. The palace's Dilkhushal Mahal contains two small chambers, the Kanch Burj and the Krishna Niwas, which are covered completely with red and silver glass and Mewar miniature paintings, respectively. This will be followed by a visit to the Jagdish Temple, built in 1651 in the Indo-Aryan style. Afternoon visit to Saheliyon ki Bari, Garden of the Maids, an eclectic, 18 th century garden built for an Udaipur queen and the 48 maids that were part of her dowry. Dinner in Jag Niwas, the famous Lake Palace of Udaipur, now a heritage hotel. | Udaipur |
| Day 8 | Morning drive to Mt. Abu, Rajasthan's only hill station. Afternoon visit to the Dilwara Jain temples at Mt. Abu, a group of five marble temples completely covered in elaborate, delicate carvings. The Vimala Vasahi Temple, built in 1031, contains an 11-tiered domed ceiling and 52 carved niches containing images of Jain tirthankaras. The Luna Vasahi Temple, built in 1231, features an enormous lotus pendant carved from a single block of marble descending from the domed ceiling. | Mt. Abu |
| Day 9 | Morning drive to Rohet. Afternoon jeep safari around Rohet, where we will view local wildlife such as blackbuck antelope and herds of peacocks. We will visit a community of Bishnoi, fervent environmentalists who strive to protect every living creature. While Bishnoi men dress only in white, the women wear bright colors and spectacular jewelry, including heavy nose rings that tie around the forehead and ears to lessen the load on the nose. We will also visit a Brahmin village, with its bright blue and purple houses featuring beautiful mud and clay built-in cabinetry. | Rohet |
| Day 10 | Today we will drive from Rohet to Jaisalmer, deep in the Thar desert. Jaisalmer was founded in the 12 th century by Maharawal Jaisal of the Bhatti Rajput clan. This town, just 50 miles from the Pakistan border, was once a busy trade port on the caravan route between India and Central Asia. Arrive Jaisalmer in the late afternoon. | Jaisalmer |
| Day 11 | Morning tour of Jaisalmer fort, built in 1156 from honey-colored sandstone. Thousands of people still reside within its walls, making it India's only living fort. We will then visit Jaisalmer's intricately-carved havelis, mansions built in the 19 th century by the city's merchants. Afternoon safari to the villages and desert around Jaisalmer. In villages such as Khuri and Kanoi, we will view up close many of the artfully-painted mud dwellings of the desert's pastoral farmers. | Jaisalmer |

- Day 12** Morning drive from Jaisalmer to Jodhpur. Afternoon visit to Mehrangarh Fort, described by Rudyard Kipling as “the creation of angels, fairies and giants.” The Marwar ruler Rao Jodha began construction on this sandstone fort in 1459, with subsequent additions made by later rulers up until the mid-19th century. From the fort you have a wonderful view of the houses below, many of which are painted bright blue. Overnight Umaid Bhawan Palace. Jodhpur
- Day 13** Morning tour of Umaid Bhawan Palace, which was built in the 1930’s by Maharaja Umaid Singh and is one of the largest palaces in the world. The chief architect was H. V. Lancaster, and the building fuses Art Deco styles with motifs from Jain temples and Rajput palaces. Afternoon flight from Jodhpur to Delhi. Evening walk through Connaught Place (Robert Tor Russell), which was built in 1931 as an upscale shopping complex for the British. The area is now full of interesting high rises, such as the Jeevan Bharati (Charles Correa) and the Statesman House. Dinner at the Imperial Hotel, designed by D.J. Bromfield, an associate of Sir Edwin Lutyens. Delhi
- Day 14** Our first stop today will be Qutub Minar, the world’s tallest brick minaret, built to mark the site of the first Muslim kingdom in North India. We will next visit Humayun’s tomb, the first Persian tomb garden in India. After lunch, we will take a rickshaw ride through Chandi Chowk, a maze of streets, shops and houses that date back to the 1600’s. This will be followed by a visit to Raj Ghat (Vanu G. Bhuta), the site of Mahatma Gandhi’s cremation. Dinner at the Ashoka Hotel, India’s first five-star hotel (B. E. Doctor). Delhi
- Day 15** In 1911, Lutyens was commissioned to design India’s new capital complex, and the result synthesizes Mughal motifs with Neo-Classical and Edwardian architectural styles. We will start the day with a drive by the Secretariat and the Sansad Bhavan (Herbert Baker), the Rashtrapati Bhavan (Lutyens) and the Supreme Court (Ganesh Bhikaji Deolalikar). Our next stop is St. Martin’s Garrison Church (Arthur G. Shoesmith), followed by lunch in the India Islamic Cultural Centre (S. K. Das), from which we can view the India Habitat Centre (Joseph Allen Stein). Afternoon visit to Andrews Ganj (Das) and the lotus-shaped Baha’i Temple (Fariborz Sahba). Early dinner in a hotel close to the airport. Depending upon the timing of your return flight to the U.S., proceed to the airport or remain in your hotel for overnight. Delhi/
Flight to U.S.

Suggested Extensions: Agra and the Taj Mahal; The Pink City of Jaipur

Trip Timing - For the best weather conditions, this trip should ideally be taken between October and March. In all of our tours, we concentrate our sightseeing in the morning and afternoon hours, avoiding the hot mid-day sun as much as possible.

Note: Not all of the sites mentioned in these itineraries can be viewed from the inside, as some of them are in protected government compounds, while others are private residences or heritage sites that only permit visitor access within certain areas. If there are certain buildings in particular that you would like to view from the inside, please let us know and we will make best efforts to secure the required access if we have not already done so.

