



Trip Extensions – India and Dhaka

Historic and Contemporary Mumbai

	Activities	Overnight
Day 1	<i>Starting point – Mumbai.</i> 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, Victoria Terminus, the General Post Office, Crawford Market, Mumbai Town Hall, the Kala Ghoda neighborhood, The Prince of Wales Museum and the Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg neighborhood. These buildings encompass an extraordinary array of architectural styles, from Neo-Classical, Edwardian and Venetian to Victorian Gothic, Indo-Saracenic, Moorish, Gujarati and Art Deco (for a detailed list of architects featured see our “Architecture of Western India” itinerary).	Mumbai
Day 2	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. On our drive to Navi Mumbai we will view several highlights of modern Mumbai, such as Thapar House, High Street Phoenix, Kanchanjunga Apartments and the Bandra-Worli Sea Link.	Mumbai
Day 3	Today you are free to relax at your hotel or to explore Mumbai on your own. We can recommend excellent spots for shopping, dining or additional sightseeing.	Mumbai
Day 4	Depart Mumbai for U.S. or other destinations in India.	

Agra and the Taj Mahal

	Activities	Overnight
Day 1	<i>Starting point – Delhi.</i> Drive or take the train from Delhi to Agra. Afternoon visit to the jewel-box tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah, a stylistic precursor to the Taj Mahal. We will then watch the sunset over the Taj Mahal from the Mehtab Bagh, or Moonlight Garden. The Taj Mahal was built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631. This is a tomb garden of flawless proportions and striking symmetry, covered inside and out with inlaid marble work inspired by the Islamic garden of paradise. From any angle, this structure is awe-inspiring.	Agra
Day 2	Morning tour of the Taj Mahal complex (afternoon visit if fog conditions exist). This will be followed by a visit to Agra Fort, which was built by Emperor Akbar between 1565 and 1573 out of red sandstone. After lunch we will tour the walled city of Fatehpur Sikri, capital of the Mughal empire between 1571 and 1585. Many of the buildings in this complex blend Islamic, Hindu and Jain architectural styles to unique effect.	Agra
Day 3	Depart Agra for Delhi and your return flight to the U.S. or other destinations in India.	

The Caves of Ajanta and Ellora

	Activities	Overnight
Day 1	<i>Starting point – Mumbai.</i> Morning flight from Mumbai to Aurangabad. Upon arrival, we will visit Daulatabad Fort, one of the finest examples of defensive fort architecture in India. Afternoon tour of the cave temples at Ellora. The 34 temples in this complex were built between the 7 th and 9 th centuries by followers of Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism. The most spectacular temple, Kailasanatha, was commissioned in the 8 th century and was carved into three million cubic feet of rock. It was designed to depict Mount Kailasa, home of Lord Shiva, and features a huge a row of carved elephants that appear to be supporting the temple.	Aurangabad
Day 2	Full day tour of the Ajanta caves, which are carved along a dramatic horseshoe-shaped ridge overlooking a deep river gorge. This complex contains 30 Buddhist cave temples built between the 2 nd century B.C. and the 6 th century A.D. The remarkably well-preserved murals at Ajanta represent the best and earliest examples of Buddhist painting in India.	Aurangabad
Day 3	Depart Aurangabad for Mumbai and your return flight to the U.S. or other destinations in India.	

Kochi

	Activities	Overnight
Day 1	<i>Starting point – Kochi.</i> Morning visit to Mattancherry Palace, constructed by the Portuguese in the 1550's. This small museum contains a rare collection of 17 th century murals and artifacts belonging to Kochi's ruling class. We will next walk through Jew Town, home to Paradesi Synagogue, India's oldest synagogue. The current building, which dates to 1664, features a floor made entirely out of hand-painted Chinese tiles, no two of which are alike. After lunch you will have time to browse through the many craft and antique shops found in Jew Town. Sunset cruise through Kochi's main harbor and waterways, where we will view Dutch, Portuguese and British-style buildings alongside traditional Chinese fishing nets and sea vessels from around the world.	Kochi
Day 2	Morning walking tour through Fort Kochi. Our first stop is St. Francis Church, which was built by the Portuguese in 1502 and is where Vasco de Gama was buried in 1524. We will also visit the Santa Cruz Cathedral and the Dutch cemetery. Lunch will be in an Indian Jewish restaurant in Fort Kochi. Afternoon visit to the Kerala Folklore Theatre and Museum, which houses an excellent collection of local musical instruments, costumes and woodcarvings. Dinner at Brunton Boatyard.	Kochi
Day 3	Depart Kochi for U.S. or other destinations in India.	

Villages of West Bengal

	Activities	Overnight
Day 1	<i>Starting point – Kolkata.</i> Morning drive from Kolkata to Bishnupur, home to a collection of elaborate terracotta temples that resemble tiny jewel boxes. The Shyama Raya temple was built in 1643 and is completely covered with terracotta friezes depicting scenes from the Ramayana and the life of Lord Krishna. The Rasa Mancha temple resembles a flattened pyramid and features 108 symmetric pillars around its base. Other temples to be visited include Jor Bangla, Madan Mohan and Shridhara. After dinner we will return again to several of these temples, which are beautifully illuminated every evening.	Bishnupur
Day 2	Drive to Shantiniketan, stopping en route at several artisan villages. West Bengal has a rich tradition of textile weaving and embroidery, and we will visit one or two rural enclaves where they still practice this art. We will also visit a village of potters that create the region's famed Bankura horse votives out of red terracotta. Arrive Shantiniketan in time for dinner.	Shantiniketan
Day 3	Morning tour of Shantiniketan, founded in 1921 by Rabindrinath Tagore, a revered poet, writer, musician and playwright. In 1913, Tagore became the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, and he is the	Shantiniketan

author of the national anthem of both India and Bangladesh. He founded Shantiniketan (now Visva Bharati University) with the goal of creating a traditional Indian system of education in which gurus teach their disciples in open air, with an emphasis on the arts, humanities and Bengali culture. We will visit the Uttarayan Complex where Tagore lived and worked, and view outdoor campus artwork by contemporary masters such as Nandalal Bose, Ram Kinkar Baij and Binod Bihari Mukherjee. Afternoon visit to a local leather workshop, a village where they create primitive brass sculpture using the lost-wax method, and a local jeweler who utilizes only organic plant material in his designs.

Day 4 Depart Shantiniketan for Kolkata and your return flight to the U.S. or other destinations in India.

The Pink City of Jaipur

	Activities	Overnight
Day 1	<i>Starting point – Jaipur:</i> Full day tour of Jaipur, built by Jai Singh II in the 1720s. This walled city is laid out on a geometric grid and is one of India's finest examples of a planned city. Our first stop is the Hawa Mahal, or Palace of Winds. This composition of windows is five stories high, but only one room deep, and was designed to enable the veiled women of the royal harem to view the city streets below. Our next stop is the City Palace, home to the rulers of Jaipur since the first half of the 18 th century. The palace museum contains an extensive collection of carpets, miniature paintings, royal costumes, weaponry and musical instruments. Next we will visit Jantar Mantar, the best preserved astronomical observatory in India. This complex contains 16 giant stone and metal instruments used to calculate time, forecast the weather, draw up horoscopes and map the planets and stars. Afternoon walking tour of Badi Chaupar, which is filled with shops selling everything from vegetables and flowers to pottery, spices, shoes, colorful bangles and precious gems.	Jaipur
Day 2	Morning visit to the Amber Fort, a citadel established in 1592 by Man Singh I on the remains of an 11 th century fort. Highlights include the three-storied Ganesh Pol gateway, the Aram Bagh pleasure garden and the Shila Devi Temple with its ornate solid silver door. We will also visit the Jas Mandir and the Sheesh Mahal, rooms that feature extensive glass and mirror inlay work. Lunch in a local country house. Afternoon visit to the Jawahar Kala Kendra arts center, an inventive contemporary building designed by Charles Correa to showcase Rajasthani textiles, crafts, weaponry, music and dance.	Jaipur
Day 3	Day for relaxing at your hotel or for shopping in Jaipur, which is known for its wonderful block-print textiles, precious and semi-precious gemstone jewelry and Rajasthani crafts.	Jaipur
Day 4	Depart Jaipur for Delhi and your return flight to the U.S. or other destinations in India.	

Nasik – The Wine Capital of India

	Activities	Overnight
Day 1	<i>Starting point – Mumbai.</i> Drive from Mumbai to Nasik, stopping en route at Pandu Lena, a collection of 24 Buddhist caves from the 1 st and 2 nd centuries B.C. Afternoon tour of Nasik, which is one of India's holiest cities, boasting hundreds of shrines and picturesque bathing ghats on the banks of the Godavari river. Many of these ghats are utilized in the Kumbh Mela festival, the world's largest religious gathering, which is held every 12 years in Nasik.	Nasik
Day 2	Full day tour of the farms and vineyards of Nasik. Some of the well-known wineries in this region include Sula Vineyards, Chateau d'Ori, Tiger Hill Vineyards, Chateau Indage, Vallée de Vin, York Winery, Renaissance Winery, Vintage Wines, Indus Wines, Vinsura Wines and ND Wines.	Nasik Wine Country
Day 3	Day for relaxing at your hotel/guesthouse or touring additional vineyards.	Nasik Wine Country
Day 4	Depart Nasik for Mumbai and your return flight to the U.S. or other destinations in India.	

Udaipur – The City of Lakes

	Activities	Overnight
Day 1	<i>Starting point – Udaipur.</i> Udaipur was founded by Udai Singh in 1559, and later became the capital of the Rajput kingdom of Mewar. 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.	Udaipur
Day 2	Morning boat tour along Lake Pichola, stopping for a visit at Jag Mandir, a floating lake palace built in 1620 that briefly served as a refuge for Prince Khurram, who later became the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. Lunch in Jag Niwas, the famous Lake Palace of Udaipur, now a heritage hotel. This afternoon you are free to enjoy your hotel or to window shop in Udaipur's famous bazaars.	Udaipur
Day 3	Morning drive to the 15 th century temple complex in Ranakpur, one of the five great holy sites of the Jain religion. The central Adinath Temple is constructed out of white marble, and contains 1,444 pillars all carved with	Udaipur

different floral patterns, giving it the feel of a marble forest. The filigreed ceiling pendants are mesmerizing, as is the way the sun illuminates different sections of the temple throughout the day. Lunch in a local guesthouse. Return to Udaipur in the afternoon.

Day 4 Depart Udaipur for Delhi and your return flight to the U.S. or other destinations in India.

Hyderabad

	Activities	Overnight
Day 1	<i>Starting point – Hyderabad.</i> Hyderabad was once India's richest princely state, ruled by the Nizams, who derived their wealth from a personal hoard of emeralds and nearby diamond mines. Morning visit to old Hyderabad, including the 16 th century Charminar and Badshahi Ashurkhana, the 17 th century Mecca Masjid, and the 19 th -century Purani Haveli, which features one of the largest wooden wardrobes in the world. We will also view the 20 th century Osmania Hospital and Osmania University. Afternoon visit to the Birla Mandir, the Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Center and the eclectic Salarjung Museum.	Hyderabad
Day 2	Morning tour of Golconda Fort, citadel of the Qutb Shahi dynasty which ruled Hyderabad from 1507 to 1687. The fort complex covers 15 square miles and is protected by three rings of fortification walls. We will also visit the Qutb Shahi Tombs, where many of this dynasty's rulers are buried. The tombs combine Persian, Turkish and Hindu architectural styles and decorative motifs, and were originally covered in blue and green tiles, only fragments of which still remain. The afternoon is at your leisure for relaxing at your hotel or shopping around town.	Hyderabad
Day 3	Morning visit to Secunderabad, a British cantonment established in 1806 northeast of the city center. Highlights include the Holy Trinity Church and the Paigah Palace compound, which contains the Spanish Mosque and the opulent Vicar Manzil mansion. Afternoon visit to the Hussain Sagar, a lake created in the 17 th century that is now lined with statues of regional notables. In the center of the lake stands a 56-foot tall statue of the Buddha built in 1986. Next we will visit The Residency, a Palladian mansion built in 1805 for James Kirkpatrick, the British Resident at the court of the third Nizam. This will be followed by a visit to the Andhra Pradesh State Archeological Museum, one of the best of its kind in India.	Hyderabad
Day 4	Depart Hyderabad for Mumbai and your return flight to the U.S. or other destinations in India.	

Bhubaneswar and Konark

	Activities	Overnight
Day 1	<i>Starting point – Kolkata.</i> Early morning flight from Kolkata to Bhubaneswar, the capital of Orissa. Upon arrival, begin drive to Puri. En route we will visit several villages that utilize rice, the main crop in this region, for constructing and decorating their simple mud huts. Rice straw is utilized for roof thatching, while rice paste is used to decorate houses with intricate geometric and floral designs. Afternoon walking tour of Puri. Highlights include a stroll along Puri's lively beach promenade and a rooftop viewing of the 12 th century Jagannath Temple, which is home to 6,000 resident priests.	Puri
Day 2	Morning tour of the Sun Temple at Konark. This complex, on the shores of the Bay of Bengal, was built in the 13 th century by the Ganga dynasty, and originally served as a navigational aid for sailors heading to Kolkata. While the site's tallest towers have collapsed due to sea and air corrosion, the remaining structures still feature thousands of striking carvings and sculptures. The main temple is shaped like a gigantic chariot, complete with 12 pairs of wheels. Three life-sized images of the Sun God, made of colored chlorite stone, are positioned at different points around the temple so that the sun illuminates their faces at dawn, noon and sunset. Drive Konark to Bhubaneswar, stopping en route in the village of Pipli, known for its brightly colored appliquéd fabrics and decorative items.	Bhubaneswar
Day 3	Full day tour of Bhubaneswar, which is home to over 400 Hindu temples dating from the 7 th to the 13 th centuries. Highlights include the temples of Lingaraj, Vaital Deul, Parasurameshwar, Mukteshwar and Rajarani. Afternoon tour of modern Bhubaneswar, which was planned by German architect Otto Königsberger in 1946 and blends colonial and traditional forms with modern influences from Le Corbusier's Chandigarh. Many of its notable buildings, including the Secretariat, the Rabindra Mandap, the Orissa State Museum and the Unit 2 Market, were designed by government architect Julius Vaz. If time permits, we will visit an ambitious housing complex in nearby Chandrashekharpur designed by S. K. Das that combines dwellings for low, middle and high income families.	Bhubaneswar
Day 4	Depart Bhubaneswar for Kolkata and your return flight to the U.S. or other destinations in India.	

Lakshadweep Islands

This island archipelago is home to the richest coral reef in India and offers superb opportunities for snorkeling, scuba-diving and other water sports. It is a highly-protected territory, and only a few of the islands are open to foreign tourists. There are several beach resorts on these islands with basic-to-good accommodations, as well as a selection of multi-day cruises featuring deluxe, first-class or tourist-class cabins (basic accommodation). Special travel permits for Lakshadweep must be obtained at least two months in advance.

Kolkata End-to-End

	Activities	Overnight
Day 1	<p><i>Starting point – Kolkata.</i> Our first stop today is the Pareshnath Jain Temple, a mosaic garden built in 1867 featuring extensive stone and mirror inlay work, stained glass, and European-style sculptures and fountains. We will next visit BBD Bagh, the heart of old Kolkata. This area contains a number of British colonial buildings dating from the 18th and 19th centuries, including St. John’s Church, the General Post Office, the High Court, the Government House and the Writer’s Building (for a detailed list of architects featured see our “Architecture of West Bengal, Orissa and Dhaka” itinerary). Afternoon visit to the Marble Palace, an elaborate mansion built in 1835 by a wealthy Kolkata landowner. The façade of the palace is Neo-Classical in style, while the courtyards borrow from traditional Bengali architecture. Early evening visit to Belur Math, headquarters of the Ramakrishna Mission. The site was built in 1938 and embodies Ramakrishna’s philosophy of the unity of all faiths. The ground plan is in the shape of a cross, and the architectural elements borrow from Mughal, Buddhist and Hindu aesthetics.</p>	Kolkata
Day 2	<p>Morning visit to the bustling Malik Ghat flower market along the banks of the Hoogly River. This will be followed by a visit to the Agri-Horticultural Society of Calcutta, the oldest horticultural society in India, founded in 1820. This afternoon we will visit the Indian Museum, the oldest and largest museum in India which houses an array of ancient artifacts, sculptures, coins and paintings. This will be followed by a walking tour through New Market, with its myriad of tiny shops selling everything from vegetables and meat to china, DVDs, perfume, jewelry and flowers.</p>	Kolkata
Day 3	<p>Morning visit to the Victoria Memorial. This domed Classical structure was completed in 1921 and features beautiful gardens, elegant sculptures of British notables and a rare collection of lithographs by Thomas and William Daniell. Next we will visit the romantic Park Street Cemetery, which dates back to 1767 and contains the remains of many Kolkata notables. This will be followed by a boat trip across the Hoogly river to visit the Calcutta Botanical Garden. Established in 1786, it was here that the tea plant was first introduced from China for commercial development in India. We will continue our boat ride North along the Hoogly, eventually reaching Kumartuli, Area of the Potters, where intricate figures of Hindu gods and goddesses are made. Dinner at O’Calcutta.</p>	Kolkata
Day 4	<p>Depart Kolkata for U.S. or for other destinations in India.</p>	

Three Days in Dhaka

	Activities	Overnight
Day 1	<i>Starting point – Dhaka.</i> Full day tour of old Dhaka. Sites to be visited include the Hindu Dhakeshwari Temple, the Mughal Lalbagh Fort, the Armenian Church, the Indo-Saracenic Ahsan Manzil, the Old High Court and Chummary House. We will also visit the Tara Masjid, or Star Mosque, which is one of the few remaining buildings in the world that feature Chinitikri tile mosaic work. Afternoon walking tour through Shakhari Bazaar, one of the oldest mohallas (traditional neighborhoods) in old Dhaka. We will also visit several 20th century buildings at Dhaka University, including Curzon Hall, Fazlul Haq Muslim Hall and Salimullah Hall.	Dhaka
Day 2	Full day tour of new Dhaka. Our first stop will be the National Martyrs Memorial in nearby Savar. Other sites to be visited today include the Shaheed Minar, Kalindi Apartments, the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University Library, Jahangirnagar University, the National Library and Archives, Kamalapur Railway Station and Louis Kahn’s National Assembly Building (for a detailed list of architects featured see our “Architecture of West Bengal, Orissa and Dhaka” itinerary). Evening dinner cruise on the Shitalakhya River, with a stop in Noapara to watch local artisans weave the traditional Jamdani cotton muslin for which Bangladesh is famous.	Dhaka
Day 3	Full day excursion to Sonargaon, the ancient capital of Isa Khan’s kingdom in Bengal. The town sits at the eastern end of the Grand Trunk Road, which stretches across northern India and into Pakistan. Isa Khan is noted in Bengali history for having successfully fought off Mughal invaders in this region for decades. Highlights of Sonargaon include the ruins of Panam Nagar, the tomb of Ghiyasuddin Azam Shah, Goadi Mosque, the shrines of Panjpirs and Shah Abdul Alia, the Shiv Mandir and the Folk Art Museum.	Dhaka
Day 4	Depart Dhaka for U.S. or for other destinations in India.	



