



Explore, Experience, Enrich™

IN001

Taste of India

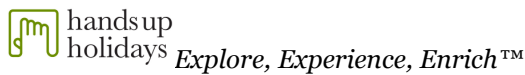
12 Days



Your “Taste of Volunteering” Project:
Repairs & Renovations, Teaching English

Your Volunteer Project will be one of the following (depending on time of year and availability):

- with a charity associated with Tear Fund where you will be working in impoverished areas, helping renovate and beautify the slums, thus vastly improving sanitation and living conditions; or
- with a charity dedicated to improving the lives of India’s poorest children - where you will help teach, or renovate the buildings, and generally help relieve the teachers’ workloads.



UK: 0800 783 3554; NZ: 0800 426 3787; US 201 984 5372 ; RoW: +44 207 193 1062
Bookings@handsupholidays.com

Trip Highlights:

- Volunteering with some of Delhi's neediest – yet loveliest – people
- Delhi's Gandhi Memorial, temples Parliament and oriental bazaar
- Agra and the monument to love, the Taj Mahal
- The “pink city” of Jaipur, with its jewellery and textile bazaars, Maharajah Palace and rickshaw ride
- The deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri
- Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

How this Trip Makes a Difference to Local Communities

This trip uses local guides throughout - including your group leader.

You will eat in locally run and owned restaurants – the food is superb!

Your adventure includes 4 days volunteering in Delhi, with

- (1) A charity associated with Tear Fund where you will be working in impoverished areas, helping renovate and beautify the slums, thus vastly improving sanitation and living conditions; or
- (2) A charity dedicated to improving the lives of India's poorest children - where you will help teach, or renovate the buildings, and generally help relieve the teachers' workloads.

A minimum of 10% of our profits goes straight into funding our Volunteer Project partners. All costs of materials and administration are included in the trip price.

How this Trip Makes a Difference to the Environment

All our trips are 100% carbon neutral – meaning that even if you don't book your flights through us, we will pay for the equivalent number of trees to be planted to cancel the CO2 emissions from the flights.

Trip Summary:

Your adventure begins in the vibrant city of Delhi, and then straight into your Volunteer Project.

We then travel to Agra, the ancient capital of India, and visit the famed monument to love - the Taj Mahal - described as the most beautiful building ever constructed.

We travel the following day to the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri and on to Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in search of the spectacular, endangered Bengal tiger, as well as the elusive leopard.

The 'pink city' of Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, is our next stop, where you can stroll through the many jewellery and textile bazaars. We include a visit by elephant to the nearby fort palace of Amber, which was the ancient capital of the Jaipur state.

We also explore the Maharajah's City Palace, and museum. We finish the day with a rickshaw ride through Jaipur's colourful markets.

If you choose Extension Trip 1 or 2 to explore Rajasthan more fully, you will commence this from Jaipur, but if not, you will return to Delhi, where you can extend your adventure into Goa, Varanasi, Kerala, or Nepal if you wish.

Trip Description:

Day 01 Arrive Delhi

You are met upon arrival at the airport by your local English speaking guide who transfers you to your hotel. You have the rest of the day at your leisure.

Your hotel is a boutique 4* heritage hotel (heritage hotels are governmentally recognised hotels that have a special place in India's history).

Day 02 In Delhi

We start the morning after breakfast with sightseeing of Old Delhi and New Delhi. In Old Delhi we visit Jama Masjid – the largest mosque in India.

We then visit Raj Ghat – the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi – and next we drive past Chandi Chowk, once an imperial avenue of Mughal royalty which today is the busiest commercial area of the city. We take a walk through Chandi Chowk to savour the ambience of this oriental bazaar.

In New Delhi, we visit the 12th century Qutab Minar, gracefully hand-carved for its entire height of 234ft. India Gate (a memorial to the Indian army soldiers who died in World War I) is our next stop before visiting the Rashtrapati Bhavan (formerly the viceroy's residence) and the Parliament House.

You have the rest of the afternoon at leisure. Overnight at your 4* boutique heritage hotel. (B)

Day 03 to 06 In Delhi

Your Volunteer Project begins! You will depart each day after breakfast in a private transfer to and from your chosen volunteer site. You will be both challenged and inspired, and this is likely to be the highlight of your trip. Overnights at your 4* boutique heritage hotel. (B)

Day 07 Delhi / Agra (202 Kms)

This morning we depart in a private transfer to Agra, and check in to our hotel. In the afternoon, we have a sightseeing tour of Agra; we visit the world famous Taj Mahal built by Shah Jahan in 1630 for his queen Mumtaz Mahal to enshrine her mortal remains.

This architectural marvel is a perfectly proportioned masterpiece fashioned from white marble that stands testimony to the skill of 20,000 craftsmen brought together from Persia, Turkey, France and Italy who took 17 years to complete this 'Love Poem in Marble'.

Afterwards we enjoy a 'tonga' (horse-drawn cart) ride to the Taj entrance gate. Accommodation is in a 3.5* hotel. (B)

Day 08 Agra-Ranthambore (200 Kms)

In the morning we depart by private vehicle for Ranthambore and *en route* we visit Fatehpur Sikri. Located 40 Km from Agra, the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri was built by Emperor Akbar in 1569, in honour of the great Saint Sheikh



Explore, Experience, Enrich™

Salim Chisti who blessed Akbar and prophesised the birth of three sons to the heirless Emperor.

Akbar used Fatehpur Sikri as his capital and the city was fully occupied for 14 years but slowly became deserted and ruined after Akbar left the city. Scarcity of water was the prime factor for the abandonment of this beautiful city. We visit the remarkably well-preserved, graceful buildings within the 'Ghost City' including the Jama Masjid, tomb of Salim Chisti, Panch Mahal Palace and other palaces that speak of the grandeur and splendour of the Mughal empire at the height of its power. On arrival in Ranthambore we check-in at the hotel. Accommodation is in a boutique heritage hotel – an old fort! (B)

Day 09 Ranthambore-Jaipur (111 Kms)

You are awoken early for a morning jeep ride at Ranthambore National Park. Rajasthan's premier tiger reserve holds dry deciduous forest, an ideal terrain for the tiger. Ranthambore's forests are inhabited by a variety of other wildlife which include the leopard, porcupine, rhesus monkeys and langur. After checking out of the hotel, we depart for Jaipur.

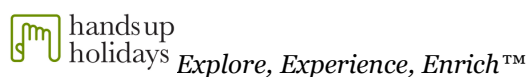
Your accommodation in Jaipur is in a 4* *haveli* (a traditional mansion owned by the Marwari people) - a boutique hotel in the old section of Jaipur. (B)

Day 10 In Jaipur

After breakfast we have a morning excursion to Amber fort - a classic, romantic Rajasthani Fort Palace. The rugged, time-ravaged walls of the Fort may not look beautiful from the outside, but the interior is a virtual paradise. Miniatures painted on the walls depict hunting and war scenes, and precious stones and mirrors are embedded into the plaster.

A major attraction at Amber is the Elephant Ride all the way up to the Fort entrance. This journey is bound to give you better insights into the royal lifestyle of the Maharajas and leave you with a truly unforgettable experience. Inside the Fort a highlight is the 'Jag Mandir' or the Hall of Victory.

Inside the Jag Mandir is the famed Sheesh Mahal - a room with all the four walls and ceiling completely embedded with glittering mirror pieces, which were specially imported from Belgium during that period. *En route* to Amber Fort, you have a brief photography stop at Hawa Mahal - the Palace of Winds.



Explore, Experience, Enrich™

UK: 0800 783 3554; NZ: 0800 426 3787; US 201 984 5372 ; RoW: +44 207 193 1062

Bookings@handsupholidays.com

In the afternoon, we have a sightseeing tour of Jaipur, the 'Pink City'. The city tour begins with a visit to the Maharaja's City Palace, the former Royal residence, part of it now converted into a museum. A small portion is still used by the Royal family of Jaipur.

Built in the style of a fortified campus, the palace covers almost one-seventh of the city's area. One of the major attractions in the museum is the portion known as Armoury Museum housing an impressive array of weaponry-pistols, blunderbusses, flintlocks, swords, rifles and daggers. The royal families of Jaipur once used most of these weapons.

We then visit the Jantar Mantar, which is the largest stone and marble crafted observatory in the world. Situated near the gate of the city palace, the observatory has 17 large instruments, many of them still in working condition. We finish with a rickshaw ride through the colourful market of Jaipur. Overnight at your *haveli* boutique hotel. (B)

Day 11 **Jaipur-Delhi**

After breakfast we transfer back to Delhi. On arrival, we check-in at our hotel near the airport, conveniently located for your flight the next day. Accommodation is in a 4* hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 12 **Leave Delhi**

We transfer you to the airport to connect with your flight. Trip ends. (B)

Day by Day Itinerary:

Day 1	Arrive in Delhi	(D)
Day 2	Delhi City Tour	(B)
Day 3-6	Delhi – Volunteer Project	(B)
Day 7	Transfer to Agra	(B)
Day 8	Transfer to Ranthambore National Park via Fatehpur Sikri	(B)
Day 9	Morning game drive; Transfer to Jaipur	(B)
Day 10	Jaipur tour	(B)
Day 11	Jaipur; Transfer to Delhi (or Rajasthan Extensions begin)	(B,L,D)
Day 12	Delhi; Trip ends	(B)

Comfort Level: 4/5

Accommodation is in a high quality heritage hotel in Delhi (6 nights), 3.5* hotel in Agra (1 night), 4* and/or heritage hotels in Ranthambore (1 night), Jaipur (2 nights) and Delhi (1 night).

Activity Level: 1/5

Min. Travellers per Group: 2

Max. Travellers per Group: 12

Police Check Required? Yes