



Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF
The Association of Former Students®



MYSTICAL INDIA

WITH RANTHAMBORE TIGER PRESERVE

November 22-December 8, 2018

17 days for \$5,187 total price from Houston
(\$4,295 air & land inclusive plus \$892 airline taxes and fees)



This tour is provided by
Odysseys Unlimited,
six-time honoree
Travel & Leisure's World's
Best Tour Operators award.



An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
Aggies & Friends of Texas A&M University



Howdy, Ags!

Join the Traveling Aggies on an exciting, distinctive 17-day journey to colorful, mystical India. Enjoy visits to sites steeped in history, with art and architecture that reveal domestic and foreign influences on India's culture.

Highlights of the tour include the historic districts of Old and New Delhi, one ancient and the other built by the British; Agra, stronghold of the medieval Mughal Empire and home to the sublime Taj Mahal; and Jaipur, the "pink city" in the princely state of Rajasthan. Enjoy a two-night stay at Ranthambore Tiger Preserve, home to the elusive Bengal tiger. Visit pastoral Kalakho and meet local Meena tribespeople. Finally, explore Varanasi, India's holiest city, experiencing life along the sacred Ganges. An optional 5-day/4-night post-tour extension to beautiful Nepal is also available.

With room for only 24 guests on this exclusive Traveling Aggies departure, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today to secure your spot!

Gig 'em,

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.

Director of Travel – Outreach and Engagement

TRAVELING AGGIES RESERVATION FORM: MYSTICAL INDIA

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____ (\$500 per person) for ____ person(s) on **Mystical India** departing **November 22, 2018**. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. **Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: The Association of Former Students, 505 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840-2918. Or you may call the Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514 or toll-free at 800-633-7514, or fax your reservation form to 979-845-9263. You may also call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765, or fax your reservation to 617-454-9199.**

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Badge Name _____ Class Year _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Badge Name _____ Class Year _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/We request a Business Class upgrade

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability)

Post-Tour "Nepal" Extension: Please sign me/us up

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for **Mystical India, November 22-December 8, 2018**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Method of Payment Check American Express Discover MasterCard VISA

Account # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

Final invoicing will be sent by the tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

Tour membership limited to 24 Traveling Aggies and friends

MYSTICAL INDIA

With Ranthambore Tiger Preserve

17 days for \$5,187 total price from Houston
(\$4,295 air & land inclusive plus \$892 airline taxes and fees)

Mystical and spiritual, chaotic and confounding, India overflows with riches. While staying at excellent hotels, we travel the classic Golden Triangle: bustling Delhi; Agra, home of the sublime Taj Mahal; and Jaipur, great city of the Rajput. We also search for elusive Bengals at Ranthambore Tiger Preserve, and absorb the holiness of Varanasi.



| Avg. High (°F) | Nov | Dec |
|----------------|-----|-----|
| Delhi | 82 | 73 |
| Agra | 85 | 75 |

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Delhi, India

Day 2: Arrive Delhi We arrive in India's hyperactive capital late in the evening and transfer to our hotel.

Day 3: Delhi After a morning at leisure followed by a briefing about the journey ahead, we set out to discover Old Delhi. Our first stop is Qutb Minar, the 379-step tower dating to 1192. We continue on to Gandhi Smriti, a museum dedicated to the Indian icon; and pass by India Gate, the majestic arch honoring the 90,000 Indian soldiers who died fighting alongside the British in World War I. Late this afternoon we return to our hotel, where tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner together. *B,D*

Day 4: Delhi We encounter more of this pulsating city today, beginning at Raj Ghat, the simple black marble slab honoring Mahatma Gandhi. After stopping for photos at Lal Qila, the Red Fort complex of palaces, we visit a Sikh temple followed by lunch at a local restaurant. This afternoon's sights include the red sandstone and marble Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque; and the colorful Chandni Chowk market, where we ride rickshaws. Then the remainder of the day is free for further exploration and dinner on our own. *B,L*

Day 5: Delhi/Jaipur Today we travel by coach to the "pink city" of Jaipur, one of the great cities of the Rajput, with historic forts, palaces, and gardens. We reach our hotel late afternoon. *B,L,D*

Day 6: Jaipur Our first stop is the stunning Hawa Mahal, the elaborately carved pink sandstone "Palace of the Winds." We continue on to Amber Fort, built by the Kachhawah Rajputs as their capital from 1037 to 1728; Jantar Mantar, the open-air observatory; and City Palace Museum, housing the magnificent art collections of the Maharajahs of Jaipur. *B,L*

Day 7: Jaipur/Sanganer This morning we visit the village of Sanganer to see villagers engaging in traditional block printing and handmade paper industries. Later we see local life up close as we explore an outdoor market. Tonight we are dinner guests in the home of a multi-generational Rajasthan family. *B,D*

Small Group Tour Highlights

Tours of Old and New Delhi • Home-hosted dinner with Jaipur family • Magnificent Taj Mahal • Two-night stay at Ranthambore Tiger Preserve • Kalakho tribal home visit • "Pink City" of Jaipur • Holy city of Varanasi • Pilgrimage site of Sarnath temple and museum

| Day Itinerary | Hotel | Rating |
|---------------|--|------------------|
| 1 | Depart U.S. for Delhi | |
| 2-4 | Delhi Taj Diplomatic Enclave | Deluxe |
| 5-7 | Jaipur Jai Mahal Palace | Deluxe |
| 8-9 | Ranthambore Taj Sawai Madhopur Lodge | First Class |
| 10 | Kalakho Dera Village Retreat | Not rated |
| 11-12 | Agra Courtyard Marriott Agra | Sup. First Class |
| 13-15 | Varanasi Taj Gateway Ganges | Sup. First Class |
| 16 | Delhi Hotel Pullman New Delhi Aerocity | Deluxe |
| 17 | Depart Delhi for U.S. | |

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.

Cover photo: Visit the Taj Mahal, a UNESCO site considered one of the world's most beautiful buildings.



Visit Amber Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site, on Day 6.

Day 8: Jaipur/Ranthambore We travel today to Ranthambore National Park, the former hunting ground of the Maharajah of Jaipur and now a 512-square-mile natural preserve that is home to hundreds of species of birds, reptiles, mammals, and of course, Bengal tigers. This afternoon we take our first wildlife drive through the park. *B,L,D*

Day 9: Ranthambore We take both morning and afternoon wildlife drives today to see not only wildlife (though tiger and leopard sightings are not guaranteed), but also picturesque ruins of forts and palaces. *B,L,D*

Day 10: Ranthambore/Kalakho We depart early for Kalakho, where we set out on a village walk to meet local Meena tribespeople in their homes. Tonight we enjoy a traditional folk dance performance. *B,L,D*

Day 11: Kalakho/Agra En route to Agra, we stop in the ancient village of Abhaneri to see the fortified Chand Baori step well (c. 800), whose 3,500 steps descend some 13 stories into the ground. Continuing on, we reach the ancient Mughal stronghold of Agra, where this afternoon we visit Itimad-ud-Daulah, the two-story marble “Baby Taj” that inspired the Taj Mahal. *B,D*

Day 12: Agra This morning we visit the Taj Mahal, the magnificent tomb built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz. Then we take an Indian cuisine cooking lesson and enjoy the results for lunch. Later: imposing Agra Fort. *B,L*

Day 13: Agra/Delhi/Varanasi We depart by coach this morning for Delhi, where we board a late afternoon flight to Varanasi, Hinduism’s holiest city. *B,L,D*

Day 14: Varanasi/Sarnath Before breakfast today, those who wish can join in a private yoga session. Then we visit nearby Sarnath, where the Buddha first taught after achieving enlightenment. One of Buddhism’s four holiest sites, Sarnath draws pilgrims

Post-Tour Extension

December 8-13, 2018

NEPAL

**5 days/4 nights
for \$1,195 total price**

Single Supplement: \$245

Absorb the beauty of the Himalayan kingdom – and the warmth of its people – on this special journey featuring sacred shrines, royal cities, and indigenous lifestyles.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Air transportation Delhi/Kathmandu, inclusive of airline taxes and fees
- 4 nights’ accommodations: 2 nights in Kathmandu at Crowne Plaza Soaltee (Superior First Class); 2 nights in Nagarkot at Club Himalaya Nagarkot (Superior First Class)
- 8 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunches, 3 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing, including Pashupatinath shrine (UNESCO site); Boudhanath monument; colorful Bhaktapur, “City of Devotees;” Swayambhunath Temple; royal city of Patan; and Kathmandu and environs
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation
- Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

“THE PATH IS THE GOAL.”

– MAHATMA GANDHI

from the world over. We see some of the temples and stupas then tour Sarnath Museum, housing a superb collection of Buddhist artifacts from excavations here. Mid-day we return to our hotel; lunch is on our own. Late afternoon we attend a traditional *aarti* ceremony: as we cruise along the Ganges, we watch as devout Hindus offer their lit lamps to the deities. *B,D*

Day 15: Varanasi Early this morning we return to the Ganges where Hindu pilgrims perform their rituals along the *ghats* (steps) leading to the river. We visit several *ghats* by boat as we experience for ourselves the spiritual aura of the hallowed Ganges waters. Then we return to our hotel with time to rest before this afternoon’s walking tour and private performance of classical sitar.



We may see Bengal tigers at Ranthambore.

Tonight we celebrate our journey at a farewell dinner at our hotel. *B,D*

Day 16: Varanasi/Delhi We fly this afternoon to Delhi, where the evening is at leisure. *B*

Day 17: Return to U.S. Very early this morning we transfer to the airport for our return flight to the U.S.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within India
- 15 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, First Class, and unrated hotels
- 32 meals: 14 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 10 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



We visit elaborate Hawa Mahal, “Palace of the Winds.”

Tour Departs: November 22, 2018

Prices include int’l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

| | |
|--|---------|
| Boston, New York, Washington, DC | \$4,987 |
| Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle | \$5,187 |
| Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa | \$5,387 |
| Denver, Detroit, Phoenix, Portland (OR) | \$5,487 |
| Land Only (transfers not included) | \$3,795 |

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$892, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,495. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: \$4,795 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and a significant amount of walking, as well as some lengthy coach rides. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.

For more information and reservations, please call The Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514, or toll-free at

800-633-7514

Or call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765

Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Tour Price

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; optional sightseeing; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

Responsibility

The liability of The Association of Former Students, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The Association of Former Students and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues

We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a significant amount of walking as well as lengthy coach rides, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, The Association of Former Students and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in.** Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees, if you prefer to make your own travel arrangements. Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes, if you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

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Unlimited, Inc.



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*Guaranteed Small Group:
Limited to 24 Guests*

