

INDIA
EMU Alumni & Friends Cross-cultural
Kim and Bob Brenneman
February 18 – March 06, 2021

Please note: Times of scheduled activities may change depending on closings/openings and availability. A revised itinerary will be sent to you closer to departure.

Focus of this cross cultural will be on religions of India (Jain, Hindu, Buddhist, Islam, Christianity) as well as culture and history (Harappan society, Mughal rule, British rule, Partition and Independence in 1947 and current events).

February 18 Thu **Welcome to India!** Arrive New Delhi late in the evening. You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel.

February 19 Fri **Delhi**
When India was under British rule, the British moved their capital from Kolkata to Delhi and it has been the capital of India ever since. In this city you will observe contrasting high tech along with ancient buildings and temples. After breakfast we will take a tour through Delhi to orient you with the city, driving past Parliament Buildings, the Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's home) and India Gate. We will explore Humayans Tomb, built by Humayans wife Bega Begam in 1565 AD, nine years after his death
Overnight in hotel.
Breakfast (B), Lunch (L), Dinner (D)

February 20 Sat Delhi
After breakfast, we will visit the Jamma Masjid, the largest mosque in India and built by the Moghul Emperor Shah Jahan. Then we will walk or ride cycle rickshaws through the narrow streets of Old Delhi. We will visit Raj Gath where Mahatma Gandhi's body was cremated. Later in the day, we will visit an inner-city slum.
Overnight in hotel
B, L, D

February 21 Sun Depart for Udaipur (estimated arrival time around 3:00 pm)
Udaipur is located in the Aravali hills in the state of Rajasthan. Rajasthan means "The Land of Kings" and is known for extravagant forts and palaces and colorful bazaars. Geographically, Rajasthan consists of deserts, jungles, and hills. Upon arrival, we will visit the Jagdish Temple, an ornately carved Indo-Aryan temple, built in 1651. Inside is a black stone image of the Hindu god Vishnu.
Overnight in hotel
B, L, D

February 22 Mon Udaipur

The City Palace is the largest palace in Rajasthan. It is on the banks of Lake Pichola, a fairly shallow lake, that dries up during droughts. If the water is high enough we may take a boat ride on the lake which allows one to see the magnificent architecture of the Palace.

Maharajah's Vintage and Classic Car Collection museum. We will enjoy vegetarian Thali's (popular Indian meal) and if you would like to visit the car museum, you will see the 1934 Rolls Royce Phantom used in James Bond's Octopussy. For James Bond fans, part of the film "Octopussy" was filmed in Udaipur!

Afterwards you will have time to wander the colorful bazaar.

Visit St. Matthews School and Seminary. We will tour and visit this school and have the opportunity to talk with the directors about their experience in running a vibrant church, school and Christian seminary; hear their view of the face of Christianity in India, and the challenge of church planting. Time permitting, we may visit Saheliyon-ki-Bari which is a colorful garden full of fountains, a lotus pool and marble elephants.

Overnight in hotel

B,L,D

February 23 Tues Depart for Jain Temple in Ranakpur and then on to Jaipur.

The Jain Temple, a magnificent ornate structure covers 48,000 square feet and has 1,444 columns, each of which are intricately carved and different from the other. The Jain religion, founded by Mahavira, arose as a reaction to the Hindu caste system and rituals.

Overnight in hotel

B,L,D

February 24 Wed Jaipur (The Pink City)

Hathi Gaon is a village where elephants live with families. Learn what the life of a Mahout (keeper of an elephant) is like; a mahout is paired with an elephant for life. Built by Maharaja Man Singh, the Amber Fort (pronounced Amer) used to be the ancient capital of the state of Jaipur. A wonderful example of Rajput architecture.

Overnight in hotel

B,L,D

February 25 Thur Jaipur

City Palace consists of Rajasthani and Mughal architecture. It holds a vast collection of weapons in the armoury, textiles, costumes, intricate decorations, gardens, and a rich history of the royal family of Jaipur. Jantar Mantar, built by Jai Singh in 1728, is an outdoor astronomical observatory used to study the constellations. The sundial stills holds accurate time. Tour the Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds), which was built in 1799 so women of the palace could observe city life. It has an amazing view of Jantar Mantar

and the City Palace. From there we will walk the colorful bazaar and have time for shopping (this is the place to buy silver) and exploration.

Afternoon and evening free

Overnight in hotel

B,L

February 26 Fri

Depart for Agra

Agra was once the capital of the Mughal empire. It is now most famous for the Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal was created by Shah Jahan as a memorial to his wife Mumtaz Mahal who died (1631) in childbirth with their 14th child.

Soon after it was completed in 1653, Shah Jahan was overthrown by his son Aurangzeb who imprisoned him in the Agra Fort until his death. Built of red sandstone (Emperor Ashoka) and white marble (Shah Jahan) between 1565 and 1571, the Agra Fort is located on the banks of the Jamuna River.

Overnight in hotel

B,L,D

February 27 Sat Agra

Visit the Taj Mahal at sunrise. Breakfast back in the hotel and then on to the Agra Fort.

Late evening departure for Gaya via overnight train

B,L,D

February 28 Sun

Arrive Gaya; Drive to Bodhgaya

Bodhgaya is located in the state of Bihar, one of the poorest states in the country. Bodhgaya is a pilgrimage site for Buddhists as it is believed that Prince Siddharta Gautama attained Supreme Enlightenment in Bodhgaya. Pilgrims from all over the globe come here to meditate and do puja (prayers). After breakfast and some rest time, we will visit the Mahabodhi Temple where we will observe monks and nuns at puja. The temple was constructed by Emperor Ashoka 250 (6th century A.C.) years after Prince Siddharta was enlightened. The Mahabodhi Tree which Siddharta meditated under and gained enlightenment, is located on the grounds. Overnight in hotel

B,L,D

March 01 Mon

Bodhgaya

There are numerous temples and monasteries in Bodhgaya: Thai, Bhutanese, Tibetan, Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Nepali. We will step inside to observe different Buddhist cultures, practices, and architecture. Visit the Big Buddha (Japanese architecture) Optional day trip to Rajgir, an important pilgrimage site for Buddhists and Jains and Nalanda the site of an ancient university.

Overnight in hotel B,L,D

March 02 Tues

Depart for Varanasi via Sarnath

After breakfast, we will depart for Varanasi via Sarnath. After enlightenment in Bodhgaya, the Buddha went to Sarnath where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon. Varanasi is the holiest site for the Hindu religion. Located next to the Ganga (Ganges) River, it is also one of the oldest cities in India. Upon reaching Varanasi, we will board our boat to reach our hotel on the Ganga. In the evening we will board a boat to view the evening Aarti. Aarti is a Hindu religious ceremony, conducted every evening by Brahmin priests in which lights are lit and offered to the gods. Overnight in hotel B,L,D

March 03 Wed

Varanasi

Early morning boat ride on the Ganga for sunrise. The banks of the Ganga are used for bathing in the morning, meditation, and yoga. One area is where bodies are cremated in public. Through our guide we will gain a better understanding of the ritual and significance of being cremated along the Ganga. After breakfast, we will walk through the winding streets of the old city of Varanasi. Varanasi is known for its silk so we will visit a silk factory. Overnight in hotel B,L,D

March 04 Thurs

Depart for Amritsar around 3:30 pm (tentative flight)

After breakfast and check out from the hotel, we will visit the Bharat Mata Temple which is a temple dedicated to Mother India. Inside this unique temple is a marble map of India. Built in 1936 it was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi.

Overnight in hotel in Amritsar
B,L,D

March 05 Fri

Amritsar

Amritsar is in Punjab State and is the 'seat' of the Sikh religion and Sikh culture. In the morning we will go to Jallianwala Bagh, the site of the horrendous massacre of innocent Indians. It has been made into a public garden in remembrance of all who lost their lives in the 1919 massacre at the hands of the British Brigadier-General Dyer. We will then head to the Sri Harmandir Sahib (The Golden Temple), founded in 1574 by the fourth Sikh Guru, Guru Ram Das and completed in 1604. The dome is made of 24-karat gold. The temple was originally constructed around a pool that had healing powers. There are four entrances to the temple which indicate that people from all directions and all 'walks of life' are equally welcome. The kitchen provides a lunch meal every day for pilgrims, staffed by volunteers. After lunch, we will drive to the Wagah Border. At the border between India and Pakistan, a ceremony is conducted that includes the closing of the international gates between the countries. It is definitely entertaining and specific guards are chosen for this special energetic ritual. Overnight in hotel

B,L,D

March 06 Sat Return to Delhi by mid-afternoon. Time for last minute shopping.
B at the hotel in Amritsar
Depart for your international flights as individually arranged.

PACKAGE TOUR RATE \$4,200.00 PER PERSON IN DOUBLE ROOM
\$400.00 SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT

The rate includes all expenses listed above except:

1. International flights
 - a. You should arrive in New Delhi on Thursday Feb 18th in the evening. You will be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel.
 - b. Your departure should be late in the evening of Saturday, March 6. Almost all flights to the US leave Delhi late at night.
We will be returning from Amritsar mid-afternoon on March 6, so your return flight to US should be late in the evening of the 6th.
2. Indian Tourist Visa. We recommend using a visa service such as CIBTVISAS.COM A visa service can make sure you correctly fill out paperwork, upload appropriate pictures etc.
3. Meals not listed above as well as drinks other than water.
4. Travel, health insurance or any kind of insurance.
5. All personal expenses and any item which is not listed above.
6. B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner