

MAHARAJAS' Express

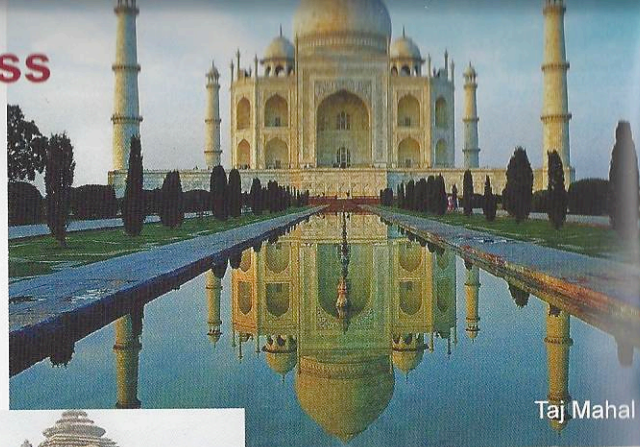
By Steven Kaplan & Melissa Vianik

For a once in a lifetime adventure... travel to India for an unsurpassed experience on the Maharajas' Express!

India, a country with a history as old as time itself, can only be truly discovered by the incredible Maharajas' Express luxury train. Almost a half mile long, it redefines the luxury and comfort of a lifestyle of a bygone era. The train travels through a country where diverse dynasties have ruled throughout centuries. The all inclusive price includes meals and beverages (including alcohol), all sightseeing (with entrance fees) and also our favorite experience, the chance to meet Indian royalty at one of the Maharajas palaces.

After a traditional welcome in New Delhi, we boarded the train and enjoyed a sumptuous dinner, with choices of either continental or gourmet Indian cuisine. Our second day's stop was at Jaipur, the Pink City. We visited the Amber Fort followed by an elephant polo match. My photographer, who participated in the polo match and scored a goal, can't stop talking about the experience.

The third day was my favorite as we embarked on a tiger safari at Ramthambore National Park. We saw tigers in the wild, which was heart stopping. To witness a tiger running around wild is breathtaking and the Maharajas tour guides gave us the best view. It definitely should be on every traveler's bucket list. The fourth day brought us to Agra, the City of the Taj Mahal. Seeing the Taj Mahal at the



Taj Mahal



break of dawn was very inspiring. It was followed by a spectacular champagne brunch overlooking the Taj Mahal. Many have heard the story of the Prince who was so heart broken by the loss of his true love, that he spent 22 years building the Taj Mahal, dedicating it to her lasting memory. A great love story that has lasted centuries. Love conquers all!!!

The fifth day we visited the bejeweled Jahangri Mahal in Orchha and then continued to the World Heritage Temples of Khajurho. The next day we visited the Holy City of Varansi, which is considered the oldest city in the world! At night, we took a cruise on the Sacred Ganges, where we witnessed traditional Hindu burial ceremonies. One has to see this to believe it! This tradition goes back thousands of years. It was very moving!! On our final day, we visited Lucknow, the city of Nawabs. We toured the Rumi Darwaza and the spectacular Bada Imambara. Our trip concluded with a return to New Delhi, where we left with memories that will last a lifetime.

For information on the **Maharajas' Express** and the 2014 schedule, go to www.maharajas-express.com.



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BOOK YOUR TRIP TODAY!
Agent: Mark Seidman
mseidman19@hotmail.com
Tel: 646.239.2654



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