Experience India Itinerary Specially Prepared for -
*University of Miami – March 2016*
10 Nights / 11 Days

**Mahabalipuram * Chennai * Mumbai * Delhi * Agra * Jaipur * Delhi**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Mode of Travel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 Feb</td>
<td>ARRIVE CHENNAI</td>
<td>BY: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT (BA@ 530 AM)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>CHENNAI – MAHABALIPURAM</td>
<td>BY: SURFACE</td>
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<tr>
<td>01 Mar</td>
<td>MAHABALIPURAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>02 Mar</td>
<td>MAHABALIPURAM – CHENNAI</td>
<td>BY: SURFACE</td>
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<tr>
<td>03 Mar</td>
<td>CHENNAI – MUMBAI</td>
<td>BY: DOMESTIC FLIGHT</td>
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<tr>
<td>04 Mar</td>
<td>MUMBAI</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>05 Mar</td>
<td>MUMBAI – DELHI</td>
<td>BY: DOMESTIC FLIGHT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 Mar</td>
<td>DELHI – AGRA</td>
<td>BY: TRAIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 Mar</td>
<td>AGRA – JAIPUR</td>
<td>BY: SURFACE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 Mar</td>
<td>JAIPUR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 Mar</td>
<td>JAIPUR – DELHI</td>
<td>BY: AIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Mar</td>
<td>DELHI - DEPARTURE</td>
<td>BY: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT</td>
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**Tour Ends**
Mon (01) 29 Feb :  ARRIVE CHENNAI
CHENNAI – MAHABALIPURAM  By: BA 35 at 0530 hour

- Arrival transfer at Chennai International airport
- Drive to Mahabalipuram
- Breakfast at the hotel
- Morning is at leisure
- Afternoon explore Mahabalipuram
- Welcome Dinner at the hotel
- Overnight stay in Mahabalipuram

Welcome to India! After immigration, you will be met and transferred to Mahabalipuram, the 7th century port city of the Pallava dynasty. On arrival, check in for your stay (Note: Though the hotel check in time is 1400 hour, we shall try to arrange for an early check in. This will however be at the discretion of the hotel and subject to occupancy on the day of check-in).

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning is at your leisure to adjust to jet lag and get ready for the upcoming journey.

Afternoon start your exploration of Mahabalipuram with a visit to the Shore Temple, which symbolises the heights of Pallava architecture and the maritime ambitions of the Pallava kings. Its small size belies its excellent proportion and the supreme quality of the carvings, many of which have been eroded into vaguely Impressionist embellishments. Originally constructed in the 7th century, it was later rebuilt by Narasimhamarman II and houses two central shrines to Shiva.

Arunja’s Penance is a relief carving on the face of a huge rock depicts animals, deities and other semi divine creatures as well as fables from the Hindu Panchatantra books. The panel (30m x 12m) is divided by a huge perpendicular fissure that’s skilfully encompassed into the sculpture.

Next visit the Five Rathas. Carved from single pieces of rock, the Five Rathas are low-lying monoliths that huddle in more ancient subtlety than grandeur. Each temple is dedicated to a Hindu god and named for one of the Pandavas, the five hero-brothers of the epic Mahabharata, plus their common wife, Draupadi.

Tonight, welcome dinner is arranged at The Wharf. This acclaimed waterfront restaurant specializes in grilled meat, seafood and pastas.

MEALS: Breakfast and dinner
Tues (02) 01 Mar : MAHABALIPURAM

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Full day vehicle at disposal for business visit (8 hour/ 80 km within city limit)
- Dinner at the hotel
- Overnight stay in Mahabalipuram

Full day vehicle is at disposal for business visit.

MEALS: Breakfast and dinner

Wed (03) 02 Mar : MAHABALIPURAM –CHENNAI By: Surface (56 km/ +/- 1h30)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Morning drive to Chennai
- Enroute visit Dakshinchitra
- Afternoon explore Chennai
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Overnight stay in Chennai

Depart Mahabalipuram after breakfast and return to Chennai.

Enroute visit Dakshina Chitra, an exciting cross cultural living museum of art, architecture, lifestyles, crafts and performing arts of South India. There is also an Art Gallery which was established by the Madras Craft Foundation with the purpose to bridge the past with the future and to promote and encourage contemporary art and design.

Just outside Chennai visit the Cholamandal Artists’ Village. This four hectare artists’ cooperative gives visitors the chance to both see and purchase contemporary Indian art direct from the source.

On arrival, check in for your stay.

Chennai or Madras is the capital of Tamil Nadu. It was founded by the British East India Company in 1639, on a narrow five-kilometer strip of land between the Cooum and Adyar rivers, a few kilometers north of the ancient Tamil port of Mylapore and the Portuguese settlement of San Thome. The British were repeatedly challenged by the French who, in 1746, destroyed much of the city. Following this, fortifications were strengthened and the British survived a year-long French siege (1759), completing the work in 1783. The city grew up around the English settlement of Fort Saint George and gradually absorbed the surrounding towns and villages. However, despite the strong British influence, Chennai has retained its traditional Tamil Hindu culture and effectively blended it with the foreign influence.

Afternoon explore Chennai starting with a visit to the Gothic Basilica of San Thomé, which was built Chennai in 1898 over the tomb of St. Thomas who, according to legend, died here in 72 A.D. This will be followed by a stop at Kapaleshvara Temple, the largest in Hindu temple in Chennai.
End the day with a visit to Fort St. George, which was built in 1640 and was the East India Company’s principal settlement in India until the seat of government was moved to Kolkata in 1774.

MEALS: Breakfast and dinner

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<tr>
<th>Thu (04) 03 Mar:</th>
<th>CHENNAI – MUMBAI</th>
<th>By: 6E 782 (0855/1105 hour)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Breakfast at the hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Morning fly to Mumbai</td>
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<td>• Afternoon explore Mumbai</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Dinner at the hotel</td>
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<td>• Overnight stay in Mumbai</td>
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Morning, assisted transfer to the airport for flight to Mumbai *(Please note the luggage allowance on this flight is 15kg/33lb checked in baggage and 7kg/15lb hand luggage)*.

On arrival, assisted transfer to the hotel.

Bombay also known as Mumbai is the economic powerhouse of India. It is young, its lively and a confluence of varied cultural currents and cross currents have given Mumbai a unique position of the most multi-ethnic city of India. Mumbai is the most populous city in India, and the fourth most populous city in the world, with a total metropolitan area population of approximately 20.5 million. Mumbai is also country’s financial and commercial hub and has a principal port on the Arabian Sea. It is also the hub of Indian film industry, which has played a pivotal role in the development of cinematography. "Bollywood", as it is called, produces the second most number of pictures in the world every year, next only to Hollywood, U.S.A. Mumbai claims to be the world’s largest production centre for films.

Afternoon explore the city driving past the colonial buildings like High Court, Sessions Court, University and Museum Buildings and the beautiful Jain temple. Stop at Prince of Wales Museum. Built in gothic and Moorish architecture, it is the striking confluence of styles that came to be known as Indo Saracenic. It boasts of a significant collection of Indus valley artefacts some of them dating back to more than 5000 years. Most impressive are the miniature paintings – nearly 2000 of them, from various stylistic schools of India. Drive along Marine Drive, the sea - Front Boulevard. It is also known as the Queen’s Necklace as in the evening, the breeze from the Arabian Sea comes over Marine Drive and as the streetlights on this U-shaped road light up, the view from south Bombay’s skyscrapers or from the exclusive residential area, is that of a Queen’s Necklace.

Explore the Malabar Hill area, the location of Banganga Tank, a major source of the city’s water, and a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Rama who is believed to be responsible for the gift of fresh water so close to the sea. This area also has the Parsi Tower of Silence, where Zoroastrians enact their ancient, sacred rites for the dead. The coexistence of these religions (and many others) in such close proximity for centuries is a testament to the diversity and tolerance that characterizes this fascinating metropolis.
Next, visit the dhobi ghats (photo-stop), the massive outdoor laundry site where dhobhi wallahs (laundry workers) beat, wring, iron and code millions of pieces of laundry daily. End the tour with a visit to Mani Bhawan - a hallowed memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, to his stay and the activities he initiated from here.

MEALS: Breakfast and dinner

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<th>Fri (05)</th>
<th>04 Mar</th>
<th>MUMBAI</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Experience Mumbai at dawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Breakfast at a local restaurant</td>
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<td>• Full day vehicle at disposal for business visit (8 hour/ 80 km within city limit)</td>
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<td>• Dinner at a local restaurant</td>
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<td>• Overnight stay in Mumbai</td>
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Start early morning for a unique experience to see the bustling city of Mumbai at dawn. Get a peek into the underbelly of the city and insights into what makes this magnificent city tick.

From seeing hundreds of newspaper vendors sort out newspapers of 7 different languages, experiencing one-of-its-kind fish auction of 20 tonnes of fish, to seeing an ‘only green’ herb market sprawled across a popular bridge. From watching the milkmen drive past with canisters, the melee of colour at the flower markets, to experiencing the glamour and chaos of the arrival of over 100 tonnes of vegetables, fruits and meat – you will witness the mercurial character of Mumbai, like none other.

What’s interesting is that when you walk the same lanes a few hours later, you wouldn’t find any evidence of the morning’s hustle bustle.

Stop for breakfast at the Mysore Café - famous for its Dosa’s, Idlis and filter Coffee, the Café has made a reputation for itself over the years. If you think of South Indian food in Mumbai – Mysore Café is high up on the list. It’s so clean and hygienic, you will see people of all socio economic strata sit beside each other and have a healthy breakfast.

Return to the hotel and full day vehicle at disposal for business visit.

Evening, walk around the Colaba Causeway area for some street shopping. Colaba is a haven for street shoppers and also for some designer shoppe.

MEALS: Breakfast and dinner
Sat (06) 05 Mar :  MUMBAI – DELHI  

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Fly to Delhi
- Afternoon explore New Delhi
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Overnight stay in Delhi

Morning, assisted transfer to the airport for flight to Delhi *(Please note the luggage allowance on this flight is 15kg/33lb checked in baggage and 7kg/15lb hand luggage).*

On arrival, drive to President’s house. The present day Rashtrapati Bhavan (President’s House) was the erstwhile residence of the British Viceroy. It was designed by Edwin Landseer Lutyens and constructed in 18 years at a cost of 877,136 pounds. This vast mansion has got four floors and 340 rooms. With a floor area of 200,000 square feet it is built by using 700 million bricks and three million cubic feet of stone. Hardly any steel has gone into the construction of the building. *Note: Visit allowed till 4 PM and subject to security clearance*

Next drive through New Delhi, passing India Gate – the war Memorial Arch, Parliament and other government buildings built in the first quarter of the 20th century by two famous English architects, Sir Herbert Baker and Sir Edwin Lutyens. It was during this time period that the capital of the British Empire was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi.

Continue to the hotel and on arrival, check in for your stay.

Delhi is India’s capital and a major gateway to the country. Perhaps there is no other capital city in the world so steeped in history and legend as the Indian capital Delhi. It was the magnet, which drew the Mongols, Turks, Persians, Afghans, Mughals and the British, all of whom contributed to its glorious but turbulent past. The fascination with Delhi was such that even though it was abandoned many times, its rulers returned to it again and again rebuilding it at least seven times. Today, the twin cities of Old and New Delhi still intrigue Indians and tourists alike as the cultural and political capital of the largest democracy in the world.

MEALS: Breakfast and dinner
**Sun (07) 06 Mar : DELHI – AGRA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Train to Agra with boxed breakfast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon exploration of Agra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening, watch live cultural show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight stay in Agra</td>
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Assisted transfer to the Railway station for your early morning train to Agra (Boxed breakfast will be arranged from the hotel).

*This train journey will offer opportunity to see the early morning life around the country side, as you cover 210 km in about 2 hour. Please note, on this train seat will be on air conditioned Chair car coach class. Though Indian Railways is the largest rail network in Asia, travel by train in India isn't similar to travel on Amtrak or European rail service. You will be assisted in boarding the correct coach, seat and once you have reached the destination, just wait at the platform and do not leave the station.*

Agra in terms of ambiance is still associated with its Mughal period. The Mughals besides being great rulers were also great builders and they preserved their best architectural wonders for Agra & its neighborhood. It has many wonderful monuments and the Taj Mahal, the greatest of them all, is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture at its best. Their architectural genius can also be seen in the forts, palaces and aesthetically laid out gardens - each one a silent witness to a grand style of a golden era.

On arrival, drive to Agra Fort. The Fort was the seat and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire under successive generations. This was the seat of Mughal rule and administration and the present structure owes its origins to Akbar who erected the walls and gates and the first buildings on the eastern banks of Yamuna River. Shah Jehan added the impressive quarters and the mosque while Aurangzeb added the outer ramparts. Visit its Hall of Public Audience and its Royal Pavilions.

From here continue to the 18th century Roman Catholic Cemetery – a 450+ year old and North India’s oldest christian cemetery. The tombs in Agra’s Roman Catholic Cemetery are the resting places of initially the Armenian Christians in the 1550s and thereafter, of other European Catholics in the city. The European Christians in Agra were creating their own fairy-tale like mausoleums in a cemetery dating back to Akbar’s time in carved red sandstone, yellow basalt and whitewashed plastered walls. However, the tomb that stands out from all the rest is that of British Colonel John Hessing also popular as Islamic mausoleum for Christian souls... The Red Taj Mahal (small replica of Taj Mahal built in red sandstone).

Continue drive to the hotel and on arrival, check in for your stay.

Afternoon visit Taj Mahal. Said to be one of the most elegant and a harmonious building in the world, Taj Mahal was built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan in 1630 AD to enshrine the mortal remains of his beloved Queen Mumtaz Mahal. Taj Mahal manifests the wealth and luxury of Mughal art as seen in architecture and garden design, painting, and calligraphy. The 144 foot double dome of the Taj is capped with a finial and the four minarets each 131 ft. high and crowned by an open octagonal pavilion highlight the perfect symmetry of the tomb.
Evening, watch Live cultural show – Mohabbat the Taj  The Kalakriti Theater is the venue for this vibrant dance drama that depicts the saga of love and a memorable journey into history. The Drama portrays the Mughal era in 16th Century, It is series of play depicting the true and immortal love of Shajahan for Mumtaj Mahal- his beautiful wife; the lavish lifestyle of mughal era; emaculate hardship of the artisans for 22 years that created the most precious specimen of craftsmanship. *The show lasts for 90 minutes.*

MEALS: Breakfast and dinner

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon (08) 07 Mar</th>
<th>AGRA - JAIPUR</th>
<th>By: surface (250 km/ +/- 6 hour)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Breakfast at the hotel</td>
<td>• Drive to Jaipur</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Dinner at a local restaurant</td>
<td>• Overnight stay in Jaipur</td>
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Morning, drive for Agra for Jaipur reaching your hotel in the afternoon.

*Jaipur is also known as the 'Pink City', for the abundance of pink plastered stone used to build its massive forts, magnificent palaces and exquisite temples. The city built in 1727 A.D by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II followed a grid system, which made it the only planned city of its time. A young Bengali architect Vidhyadhar Bhattacharya designed the city in accordance with Shilp Shastra - an ancient Hindu treatise on architecture.*

On arrival, check in for your stay.

*Afternoon explore the city starting with a photo-stop at Hawa Mahal (the Palace of Winds). Five stories in height, and built of red and pink sandstone highlighted with white quicklime, it is thought that the women of the royal harem used the many casements to observe everyday life in the street below without being seen. Continue to Jantar Mantar, an observatory built by Sawai Jai Singh II in the 18th century. The Maharajah, a scientist as well as an astronomer, had the principles of Euclid translated into Sanskrit. One of the most remarkable sites in Jaipur, the Jantar Mantar has fourteen major geometric devices for measuring time, predicting eclipses and tracking stars and planets.*

Just next to the observatory is the City Palace. Built within the fortified area of the original city, it has one of the finest monumental entrances in India. The Palace is now principally a museum housing a collection of great treasures, including miniature paintings, carpets, royal garments and other interesting objects from Jaipur's intriguing past. The former royal family retains a part of the palace for their personal use.

MEALS: Breakfast and dinner
Tue (09) 08 Mar : JAIPUR

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Morning excursion to Amer Fort
- Vehicle at disposal for business visit (8 hour/ 80 km within city limit)
- Evening, elephant safari at Dera Amer
- Dinner at Dera Amer
- Overnight stay in Jaipur

Set off this morning, traveling outside the city, to Amber Fort. This beautiful fortified palace was once the capital of the state of Jaipur (until 1728 AD) and the capital of the powerful princes of Jaipur. The Fort is surrounded by fortified battlements and overlooks the Moat Lake. Among the best hilltop forts in India, with stern exteriors of white marble and red sandstone that seem to grow out of the rugged hills, the Amber Fort has mighty gates leading to beautifully decorated temples, huge ornate halls palaces, pavilions and gardens. You will ascend the hill leading to the fortress on jeep and then walk through the sprawling complex of courtyards and halls. The architecture is a combination of both Mughal and Rajput styles, and the chambers and hallways of the palace are decorated with paintings depicting hunting scenes, intricate carvings, mosaics and detailed mirror work.

Full day vehicle at disposal for business visit.

Evening, drive to Dera Amer situated just behind the hills of famous Amer Fort for an elephant safari through the somnolent countryside. The camp is surrounded by the wilderness of a reserved forest with no urban civilization in the vicinity and just a few hamlets housing the local villagers occupied by farming on the their fields bordering a pretty lake. While on the safari, watch a gorgeous sunset and hear evening songs of the birds, making this an absolutely magical experience. Your elephant sojourn concludes at the camp of Dera Amer, situated in the middle of the forest, where you enjoy a dinner.

MEALS: Breakfast and dinner
Wed (10) 09 Mar :  JAIPUR – DELHI  

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Fly to Delhi
- Afternoon visit Humayun’s Tomb
- Free time for shopping
- Farewell Dinner at Lodhi
- Overnight stay in Delhi

Morning, assisted transfer to the airport for flight to Delhi (*Please note the luggage allowance on this flight is 15kg/33lb checked in baggage and 7kg/15lb hand luggage*).

Arrive Delhi and drive to Humayun’s Tomb. It is the first garden tomb on the Indian subcontinent (“the predecessor of the Taj Mahal”). Built by the wife of Humayun, Haji Begum in the mid-16th century, this monument is a wonderful example of early Mughal architecture. At Humayun’s Tomb, the Mughals brought with them a love for gardens, fountains and water. The tomb is set in a geometrically arranged garden crisscrossed by numerous water channels and probably representing symbolically a paradise setting.

Next visit Khan market, one of the most exciting and contemporary market places in Delhi for shopping.

Continue to the hotel and on arrival, check in for your stay.

In the evening, come together for a delightful reception to farewell group members over dinner at Lodi – the garden restaurant in Lutyens’ Delhi.

MEALS: Breakfast and dinner

Thu (11) 10 Mar :  DEPART DELHI  

- Assisted transfer to the airport

Early morning, assisted transfer to the airport for flight to the onward destination.

**End of Tour**
Included:

1. Accommodation on twin share basis for a total of 10 nights as per the hotels mentioned or similar
2. 21 Meals: 11 breakfast & 10 Dinners including Welcome dinner in Mahabalipuram and Farwell dinner in Delhi
3. Welcome and farewell dinner will be served with 1 glass of Indian wine/beer
4. All transfers, city tours local run and intercity transportation in air conditioned deluxe coach with microphone equipment
5. Services of an English speaking local guide in Chennai, Mahabalipuram and Mumbai and accompanying guide for Delhi, Agra and Jaipur sector
6. Monument entry fees as detailed
7. Air conditioned chair car train ticket for travel Delhi to Agra
8. Tickets to witness live cultural show in Agra
9. Jeeps to visit Amer fort in Jaipur
10. Elephant safari at Dera Amer in Jaipur
11. Packaged drinking water in the coach throughout
12. 2 hours internet usage per room per day
13. All currently applicable taxes

Excluded:

- International / domestic airfare
- Visa fees for India
- Any gratuities on the tour
- Any Insurance
- Any meals or options not mentioned in the itinerary
- Expense of personal nature like tipping, laundry, telephone/fax calls, alcoholic beverages, camera/video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, airport departure tax etc.
- Additional nights for participants, which is offered at additional cost to individual participants.

REMARKS

WORLD HERITAGE SIGHTS
- Sites of Mahabalipuram
- Victoria Station in Mumbai in Mumbai
- Humayuns Tomb in Delhi
- Taj Mahal and Agra Fort
- Amer Fort in Jaipur