



## Smiling Soul Break-Away Packages

The Smiling Soul Creations team has put together a fabulous set of Smiling Soul Break-away packages as a guideline for participants who wish to experience more of Incredible India prior to or after the Retreat.

We're very pleased to connect you with Trimurti Holidays who are the Travel Agents in India that we recommend and have assisted in putting these packages together taking the best of what India has to offer within the stipulated time frames. Trimurti Holidays is a reputable Travel Agent who has been in the market for over 40 years and handle an international client base with the sensitivity as to what it takes to service this market. As with everything in India the time it takes to respond to your query is at another pace. If you feel that your correspondence is not being responded to any you require assistance for follow-up please feel free to engage with the Incredible India Smiling Soul Retreat Coordinator or to copy her in on your next email who will assist in moving things forward on your guideline as a means to support your enquiry or confirming your booking.

**Please note that these are add-on packages and do not form part of the Incredible India Smiling Soul Retreat, nor are we involved directly or indirectly in running these packages which are being offered as suggestions to enhance your experience and must be booked and settled directly with Trimurti Holidays.**

If you'd like to book a package to enhance your experience or find out more, kindly contact Trimurti Holidays who will assist in customising the experience for you based on your time-frame and available budget, the main factor being the quality of accommodation you choose and the means of transport as available within your time-frame.

**Contact: Mrs. Asha Advani (Partner)**

**Trimurti Holidays, 1203, Dalamal Chambers, Free Press Journal Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021**

**Tel: +91 22 2285 4866 Ext: 4**

**Mobile No.: + 91 98214 56448**

**Email address : [asha@trimurthiholidays.com](mailto:asha@trimurthiholidays.com)**

**CC: [trimurti1@trimurthiholidays.com](mailto:trimurti1@trimurthiholidays.com) /**

**For support from our team CC: [rupali@brettshuttleworth.com](mailto:rupali@brettshuttleworth.com)**

### **OPTION 1 - Delhi Highlights Smiling Soul Breakaway**

1 or 2 Extra Nights Accommodation inclusive of Breakfast (choice of class of Hotel) & Airport Pick-up in New Delhi (flight details to be advised) After immigration and customs formalities, meet our Travel Agent's Representative outside the exit Gate, who will transfer you to the hotel and assist with your check-in. Options to organize outings in Delhi such as markets, shopping excursions, monuments and



Lotus Temple which can be organized directly with the Agent prior to arrival or at time of your arrival with the representative.

## **OPTION 2 - 2 or 4 Nights Colours of Rajasthan Smiling Soul Breakaway – Pink City of Jaipur (& Lake City of Udaipur)**

### **Day 1**

On arrival from your International Flight, transfer to Domestic Terminal for Delhi - Jaipur flight.

On arrival in Jaipur, meet our Travel Agent Representative outside the exit Gate, who will transfer you to the hotel and assist with check-in. Overnight at the hotel

### **Day 2**

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion to Amber Fort. Visit the ancient Rajput capital of Amber, 11 km from the city. This fort-palace was begun by Raja Man Singh and used by the Rajputs as their stronghold until Sawai Jai Singh II moved to the newly created Jaipur. See the Diwan I Am or hall of public audience, Kali temple, Jai Mandir or hall of victory with its inlaid panels and mirror ceiling, and Sukh Niwas. The fort provides breathtaking views of the lake below. Exquisite architecture and water engineering, ancient cooling systems by use of natural resources such as water and air and ventilation by use of carvings on walls!

City tour of Jaipur. Take a half-day tour of the city visiting the Maharaja's City Palace and the Jantar Mantar Observatory. Jaipur's walled City Palace (1732 AD) occupies one-seventh of the city's area. See the Mubarak Mahal, museums of textiles and armoury etc, and the Diwan I Khas and Diwan I Am. Jantar Mantar, literally meaning "instruments for measuring the harmony of the heavens" is the oldest in India. Each instrument has a specific purpose and gives an accurate reading.

Photo stop at Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds). Also, drive past the rose-pink residential and business areas of Jaipur and shop for local handicrafts in the form of intricately woven quilts, brightly coloured tie-dye fabrics in silk and traditional cotton and the myriad of hand-puppets.

Recommended add-on: Cultural evening and traditional dinner at Chawkhi Dhani Rajasthani village just outside the city - a Smiling Soul experience you will never forget! :)

Overnight at the Hotel

### **Day 3 - Jaipur - Udaipur**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to the airport (Return to Delhi or onward to Udaipur)



Depart for Udaipur - romantic city with the magnificence of the Lake Palace Hotel floating on Lake Pichola

On arrival, meet our Travel Agent Representative outside the exit Gate, who will transfer you to the hotel and assist with check-in

Boat ride on Lake Pichola. This lake takes its name from the small village of Picholi on its west bank. In the lake are several islands. On two of them in the Maharajas of Udaipur constructed pleasure palaces, the Jag Mandir and the Jag Niwas.

Overnight at the hotel

#### **Day 4**

Breakfast at the hotel

Sightseeing of Udaipur. Udaipur is one of the most unassuming and charismatic cities of Rajasthan. It nestles like a gem in a valley surrounded by the green Aravalli hills, reflected smooth and white in the clear blue lake of Pichola. Old dwellings, temples and palaces peak of an aristocratic past. Visit the City Palace, once the home of Mewar's rulers, which is a museum. It consists of several flawlessly integrated palaces which overlook the clear blue of Lake Pichola. Visit Sahelion-ki-bari (Garden of the Maids of Honour) the scene of royal parties for centuries. Drive around Fateh Sagar Lake excavated in the late 17th century by Maharaja Jai Singh and past the Kala Mandir (Puppet Museum) and the Cenotaph of Maharana Pratap.

Afternoon at leisure to explore this mystical town, enjoy your Hotel surroundings and journal your explorations

Overnight at the hotel

#### **Day 5**

Breakfast at the hotel

12.00pm check out of the hotel

Transfer to the airport for your onward journey /return flight to Delhi, airport pick-up by our Travel Agent Representative and check-in at Hotel in time to meet us for the Official Introduction and Welcome by Brett to your Incredible India Smiling Soul Retreat experience!

### ***OPTION 3 - 2 of 4 Nights Holy City of Varanasi & Sensual Temple Carvings of Khajuraho Smiling Soul Breakaway***

(can also be done at end of the Retreat from Mumbai)

#### **Day 1**

On arrival from your International Flight, transfer to Domestic Terminal for Delhi - Varanasi flight.



On arrival in Varanasi, meet our Travel Agent Representative outside the exit Gate, who will transfer you to the hotel and assist with check-in. Situated on further down the Ganges, this unique town is known for its rituals and rich silks from ancient times, and has been home to brilliant scholars, thought leaders and enlightened masters over the centuries.

Evening Ganga Aarti. Ganga Aarti at Dasaswamedh Ghat is a show stopper. It is on the 'must do' list of every tourist. It starts soon after sundown and goes on for an hour and half, but visitors begin streaming in as early as 5 PM. The preparation in the lead up to the Aarti sets the tone for the evening ahead. It all begins with young priests organizing their prayer instruments on their respective platforms - eight odd of them. Visitors start taking their seats while locals can be seen buying flowers and other items from shops around selling pooja-related stuff.

The big fire lit lamps look beautiful as darkness envelops the area. The group of young priests begin proceedings in a well orchestrated manner, synchronizing their movement with lamps in hand, to the rhythmic chants of hymns and beat of cymbals. Loudspeakers and floodlights further enhance the dramatic and colourful enchantment surrounding the evening Aarti, a spectacle to be observed at least once! Many opt to witness the Aarti sitting in a boat for its lovely visual perspective.

Overnight at the hotel

## Day 2

Boat ride on Lake Ganges

Over three miles in length, steps lead down from a steep bank to the sacred river. The time to see the ghats is early dawn when out of the morning mist, forms descend the steps, their numbers increasing by the minute until a solemn silent multitude, lit by the sun's first rays, moves in the same direction to immerse itself in the holy stream and to salute the sun. These rituals remind one of the nature worship prevalent in India during the Aryan age, 3,000 years ago. The ghats extend to almost four miles of riverbank. During this particular sightseeing no monuments are visited.

See the Bathing Ghats, Cremation Ghats, visit the great mosque of Aurgangzeb built in the 17th century when the fanatical Emperor Aurangazeb pulled down the original Vishwanath Golden Temple and on its site raised a mosque. This great mosque has minarets towering 71 meters above the Ganges. Visit the Sacred Bull, the Well of Knowledge and the Vishwanath Temple (Golden Temple).

After the boat ride visit the Golden Temple and walk through the narrow lanes of Varanasi.

Return to the hotel for breakfast

Thereafter Sightseeing of Varanasi

Varanasi (also known as Banaras) situated on the banks of the sacred Ganges, is one of the oldest living cities in the world & the ultimate pilgrimage for Hindus. Half day sightseeing tour includes visit to Bharat Mata Temple - dedicated to



'Mother India'. This temple has a marble relief map of India instead of the usual images of god & goddesses; it gives an excellent impression of the high isolation of the Tibetan plateau. Visit the Durga Temple, commonly called the 'Monkey Temple' - because of the presence of myriad of monkeys. Built in the 18th century, it is one of the best-known temples, but open only to Hindus.

### **Day 3**

Flight transfer from Varanasi - Khajuraho, artistic capital of ancient times with sensual carvings temple complex intricately delivered by the most skilled artisans in celebration of a full sexual expression

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to the airport

Depart for Khajuraho by flight

On arrival, you will be met by our Travel Agent representative and transfer to the hotel for check-in

Evening at leisure and overnight at the hotel

### **Day 4**

Breakfast at the hotel

Sightseeing of Khajuraho

Khajuraho was the capital of the Chandela kings and its temples were built in the short span of hundred years, from 950-1050 AD. Most of them were destroyed by Muslim invaders. Adorned with exquisite sculpture, only 22 temples remain of the original 85. Khajuraho's temples are covered with hundreds of sculptured figures - a galaxy of gods and goddesses, beasts and serpents and a multitude of erotic postures which represent a paean to life, to love and to joy. The most famous are the Kandariya Mahadev, the Chatgurbhuj, the Paraswanath and the Ghantai - the summit of Hindu sculpture: voluptuous forms; human and divine, throbbing with life and sublime in expression.

Evening at leisure

Overnight at the hotel

### **Day 5**

Breakfast at the hotel

12.00pm check out of the hotel

Transfer to the airport for your onward journey /return flight to Delhi, airport pick-up by our Travel Agent Representative and check-in at Hotel in time to meet us for the Official Introduction and Welcome by Brett to your Incredible India Smiling Soul Retreat experience!



## Packages After End of Retreat:

### **OPTION 4 - 2 Nights - Mumbai City of Dreams Smiling Soul Breakaway**

#### **Day 1**

At the end of the Retreat extend accommodation at Hotel (or transfer to another hotel of your choice), spend afternoon at leisure exploring the market around Colaba District and taking in the uniqueness and buzz of being in one of the world's most dynamic cities where Dreams come true!

#### **Day 2**

Breakfast at the hotel

Day at leisure - or opt for a guided city tour of the historical colonial style architecture, myriad of markets from Thieve's Market to Gold and Silver Market, Crawford Market and the intricate structure of the Victoria Terminus Train station, local courts and a high-noon tea at the glamorous Taj Mahal Hotel on the Arabian Sea close to the Gateway of India

Overnight at the hotel

#### **Day 3**

Breakfast at Hotel

After Breakfast and check-out proceed for visit to Elephant Caves

The island of Elephanta is just an hour away from Mumbai by motor launch which is boarded at the jetty opposite the Gateway of India in Colaba. The day temples here, excavated between the 5th and 8th centuries AD, are famous for their magnificently sculpted panels. The best known is one that depicts the Maheshmurti - a three headed image of Lord Shiva.

Thereafter transfer to the airport for your onward journey/return flight

### ***5 Days Munnar Plantations & Kerala Back-waters Heaven-on-Earth Smiling Soul Breakaway (can opt for 3 Nights & 4 Days package Kerala back-waters & Cochin)***

#### **Day 1**

Transfer after Retreat to Domestic airport

Arrival at Cochin

On arrival, meet our Travel Agent Representative outside the exit Gate, who will transfer you to Munnar (130 kms/3 hrs)

Upon arrival at Munnar proceed to the hotel



Overnight at the hotel

## **Day 2**

Breakfast at the hotel

Sightseeing of Munnar including visit to Tea Plantation

In the forested High Ranges of Kerala there is a valley watered by three rivers. The slopes that rise out of it were once covered by dense jungles where elephants, and ancient men who built stone burial chambers, once lived. The forests are still rich in wildlife but the mountains are now covered in manicured slopes of tea. And the little town in the valley is dedicated to growing, harvesting, curing and selling the drink that cheers but does not inebriate. Munnar languishes in innocent beauty across mist-laden green hills at a height of about 6,000 ft. The vistas in and around it are breathtaking with the heady aromas of tea, coffee a cardamom wafting from the nearby plantations. Beyond lies Anai Mudi and the rich tropical forest of the Anamaiali Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu on one side and the Eravikulam National Park in Kerala on the other. The Nilgiri tahr in Eravikulam are among the rare breed of mountain goats in the world. The drives out of Munnar are pretty and visitors can trek down to a stream-threaded glen where trout are bred. The green slopes and the dense shoal forests in the folds of the hills offer varied, protected habitats for birds. Nilgiri langurs, lion-tailed macaques and other monkeys abound.

Overnight at the Hotel

## **Day 3**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Allepey (172 kms/ 3 ½ hrs) - welcome to Heaven on earth! This core backwater area is rich in natural beauty with enchanting greenery all around the backwaters, a series of canals which house uniquely crafted house-boats. The major attraction in the area is Kuttanadu Paddy Fields farming undertaken below sea level. On this cruise you will enjoy real village life and scenic beauty, as you traverse along banks of village after village which exists on this traditional mode of farming.

On arrival, embark the Houseboat

Board your houseboat from Lakes & Lagoons Jetty. After the introduction with the crews, the cruise starts. One can enjoy the rural sights, the abundant marine life along the lush, coconut grove lined canals of the back-waters. Lunch/Dinner on the Houseboat.

Overnight at the Houseboat

Lunch/Dinner on the Houseboat

Overnight at the Houseboat

## **Day 4**

Breakfast at the Houseboat & Cochin / Or Kumarakom



## Disembark the Houseboat

Extend your stay at a Back-waters Hotel around Kumarakom, and explore a traditional Kerala-style Ayurvedic Treatment Option package, embalmed with herb and spice embalmed oils and delivered in pairs of two therapists who will mince, pound and ease all tension from your body leaving you rejuvenated and fresh as a new born daisy! Then transfer to Cochin the next day for your onward return flight / journey

OR

Transfer to Cochin (53 kms/ 1 hr)

Sightseeing of Cochin followed by Kathakali dance performance. Visit the Mattancherry Dutch Palace - open from 10.00 to 15.00 hrs. (closed on Fridays and public holidays), which was built by the Portuguese in 1555 and renovated by the Dutch in 1663. In the ancient rooms are 17th century murals that relate in vibrant colour the story of the epic Ramayana. Visit a Jewish Synagogue - open 10.00 to 12.00 hrs. & 15.00 to 17.00 hrs. (closed on all Saturdays and Jewish holidays) in Jew Town and Fort Cochin Area - legend dates Jewish trade with Kerala from the times of King Solomon. There are a couple of streets and picture postcard houses out of another age, in 17th century Dutch and traditional Kerala styles. Visit St. Francis Church - open from 09.00 to 13.00 hrs. and from 14.30 to 17.30 hrs. (closed for visitors on Sundays from 08.00 to 11.00hrs.) the oldest European church in India. It has several antiquities including a wealth of records. These include a palm-leaf title deed the local Raja gave the Portuguese in 1503. See the Chinese Fishing Nets, unique to this part of Kerala and living symbols of a centuries-old Chinese influence on this coast.

Kathakali Dance Show. 'Katha' means story and 'Kali' means dance. As the name suggests Kathakali is a beautiful amalgamation of dance and drama. Kathakali dance-drama can also be described as a visual art because performers do not say any dialogues in this. Rather they use mime to communicate, effectuated through the remarkable use of facial gestures and hand mudras. This also lends Kathakali its universal appeal. Another distinct

## Day 5

Breakfast at the hotel

12.00pm check-out of the hotel (if staying on at Back-waters early check-out to head for airport)

Transfer to the airport for your onward journey/return flight

## **OPTION 5 - 5 Days Chennai, Mahabalipuram Beach Temple City and Pondicherry Smiling Soul Breakaway**

### Day 1

Transfer after Retreat to Domestic airport



Arrive into the Port city of Chennai, South India's biggest metropolis situated in the state of Tamilnadu

On arrival, meet our Travel Agent Representative outside the exit Gate, who will transfer you to the hotel

Check into the hotel

Overnight at the hotel

## **Day 2**

Breakfast at the hotel

Sightseeing of Chennai. Chennai - the capital of Tamil Nadu - where Dravidian culture reached its zenith - a part of the legendary Coromandel coast with a marvellous tradition of music and dance. The golden sandy beaches merge with the breakers of the Bay of Bengal. One of India's four metropolises this city of 4 million has a pronounced colonial heritage dating back to the 17th century, when first the Portuguese and then the British arrived here.

Visit Fort St. George, completed in 1653 and today filled with reminders of the past, including St. Mary's the first church consecrated on Indian soil. The National Art Gallery has many excellent bronzes including the famous Chola period bronze Nataraja, the God Shiva, in the cosmic dance pose. The Government Museum (closed on Fridays) which contains sculpture and architecture produced by the Dravidian dynasties. Drive along the Marina, an elegant promenade and proceed to the old Indian section of Mylapore. Visit San Thomas Basilica - the culmination of the enduring legend of Thomas Didymus, the apostle who doubted and who is believed to have lived and preached on Mylapore's shores. Visit Mylapore Temple and the Victoria Technical Institute

## **Day 3**

Breakfast at hotel

Transfer to Mahabalpuram (56 kms/1 hr)

On arrival, check into the hotel

Sightseeing of Mahabalipuram. Mahabalipuram is a beautiful beach which consists of a tiny village by the sea in which all else is dwarfed by a dream world of awesome Tamil art, an open air museum of sculpture in living rock. The piece de resistance is Arjuna's Penance or the Descent of the Ganga, the world's largest bas-relief, 764 ft. by 288 ft. (27m by 9m). It is a beautiful composition of hundreds of celestial beings, human and animals all hurrying to a natural rock cleft that divides the giant stone. The best known landmark of Mahabalipuram is the Shore Temple which has stood by the sea for 12 centuries. Its twin spires are pure poetry in granite.

Overnight at the hotel

## **Day 4**



Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Pondicherry (90 kms/1 ½ hr)

On arrival, proceed to the hotel Overnight at the Hotel

Breakfast at the Houseboat

Sightseeing of Pondicherry. The former capital of the French territories in India. Land marks include the Raj Niwas, the residence of the Lt. Governor of Pondicherry - a handsome 200 year old building which faces Government Park (French Place) with its well laid out paths and lawns, fountains and a number of sculptures. The Remain Rolland Library has over 600,000 volumes on its shelves. The Pondicherry Museum has an outstanding collection of artefacts relating to all aspects of the French Indian past. The church of Notre Dame des Anges was built around 1865. It has a rare oil painting of Our Lady of the Assumption, a gift from Napoleon III. Visit Aurobindo Ashram, the best known landmark of Pondicherry. The Ashram, in addition to practicing Yoga, also provides scope for practical activity for its followers who come from all over the world. These include construction, farming, shoe making and laundering. Auroville is an extension of the Aurobindo Ashram. It is a voluntary commune, 6 miles (10 kms.) Northwest of Pondicherry where around 800 people from 28 nations live. It looks like a city of the future as its architecture is the result of diverse experiments in building materials, techniques and styles.

Overnight at the hotel

## Day 5

Breakfast at the hotel

12.00pm check out of the hotel

Transfer to the airport for your onward journey /return flight