

Join the First UU Church of Houston and the International Convocation of UU Women
on A Passage to India
27 December 2010—13 January 2011

Mon, Dec 27 - Morning departure for Delhi.

Tue, Dec 28 - On arrival we are met with garlands and transferred to the hotel, The Metropolitan.

Wed, Dec 29 - Morning sightseeing tour of Old Delhi includes The Jama Mosque built in 1650 AD, followed by a drive past the breathtaking Red Fort and on to the Raj Ghat, the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi. In the afternoon we will tour New Delhi includes the Embassy area, Sikh Temple (Bangla Sahib Gurudwara), Birla Temple and Connaught Place, New Delhi's main shopping area.



Thu, Dec 30 - We fly southeast to the holy city of Varanasi where we are met by coach. En route to Varanasi we stop at the ancient Buddhist monastery at Sarnath where the Buddha came to preach. Varanasi (Radisson Hotel) is a holy city to Buddhists, Hindus and Jains, located on the Ganges River where, in the evening, we will witness the "Aarti" ceremony on the Ghats (steps on the river bank) led by young Brahmans.

Fri, Dec 31 - The next morning we will drive to Daswamedh Ghat and take a boat ride on the Ganges. Then a tour of the city, including a walk through the bazaars to look at the world famous Banaras silks. We fly back to Delhi where we are met and transported to the hotel. Enjoy New Year's Eve dinner at the hotel.

Sat, Jan 1 - Morning drive to Agra. Afternoon Experience the TAJ MAHAL. Also visit Agra Fort, a most important fort in India reflecting the grandeur of the Mughal Empire, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Sun, Jan 2 - We travel by coach 120 miles southwest to Ranthanbore National Park en route visiting

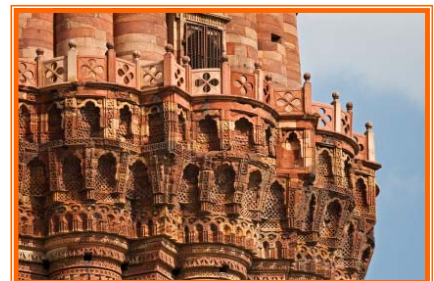


Fatehpur Sikri, a deserted, red sandstone city built by the Emperor Akbar; and Jami Masjid, an open mosque. We will spend 2 nights at the Ranthanbore Nahargarh Hotel. While we are relaxing in the Park we will view the extensive variety of plants and animals and, if we're lucky, we might get to see tigers in the wild.

Mon, Jan 3 - A relaxing day in Ranthanbore, with morning and evening game viewing and where we will be treated to full board for the time we are in the park.

Tue, Jan 4 - Morning game view at National Park and later drive 106 miles to Jaipur (Hotel Trident).

Wed, Jan 5 - After breakfast we will have an excursion to Amer Fort, outside Jaipur, one of the finest examples of Rajput architecture and the ancient capital of Kaisshawah rulers. We will ascend to the palace on back of a brightly caparisoned elephant. In the afternoon we tour the walled city of Jaipur, a shopper's paradise famous for handicrafts and jewelry, etc.; Jantar Mantar, stone observatory built 1728; Hawa Mahal, the "Palace of Winds;" and the museums of the City Palace.



Thu, Jan 6 -Fly from Jaipur to Mumbai, the west coast of India. We will be met at the airport and transferred to the Fariyas Hotel. Later in the day ferry to Elephanta Cave temples, dating to the 8th C. dedicated to Hindu Sun God, Shiva and located on an island 6.2 miles off the coast, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Fri, Jan 7 - -Transported to the community compound of Vivek Pandit, India's modern day Gandhi, a partner of the Holdeen India Program who works with landless laborers. We will spend the night at his community center.



Sat, Jan 8 - We fly west to Ahmedabad where we are met and transferred to the Fortune Landmark Hotel to spend 2 nights. We will visit the Self Employed Women's Association where Kathy Sreedhar, Holdeen Program Director, will meet with us to share her views on problems facing India and tell us about the Holdeen work for social justice in India.

Sun, Jan 9 - Ahmedabad. More time at SEWA, learning about their programs and then we visit the Ghandi Ashram and visit one or more of the historic sites in the area which include the Jami and Friday Mosques the Mosque of Sidi Sayyid and the Calico Museum.

Mon Jan 10 -We fly via Kolkatta to Guwahati in the tiny state of Meghalaya in the Khasi Hills, a naturalist's paradise. We are met at the airport there and travel by bus 124 miles to the capital city of Shillong where we will be staying at the Polo Tower hotel. That evening we will dine with representatives of the Northeast Indian Unitarian Union.

Tue, Jan 11 -We will visit the Children's Village in Kharang Kharang (approximately 2 hours' drive) followed by a visit to one or two nearby churches in the area, and, on the way back, stop over at Smit and Nongkrem churches.

Wed, Jan 12 - Meet informally with the Executive Committee of the Unitarian Union, including the Presidents and the Secretaries of the Women's League and the Youth League. Then, the Women's League will lead us on a sightseeing tour. Round off with a vesper in the Madan Laban church at 1830 hours.

Thu, Jan 13 - We drive back to Guwahati, fly to Delhi and then home!



Cost: \$5,000 per person double occupancy, includes all travel, lodging, guided tours and breakfasts; does not include most lunches or dinners or tips. To assure your reservation please post by July 1st a nonrefundable deposit of \$500 by registering and making your payment online through the church website (firstuu.org) or mailing it to the church @ 5200 Fannin St., Houston, TX 77004. Make checks payable to First UU Church. If you have questions or for additional information contact tour organizer, Laura Nagel at lauranagel@sbcglobal.net or by phone 713-524-5608.