Rediscovering the Raj
With Guest Lecturer Sir Roy Strong & Joanna Worsley
18th February – 4th March 2016

The Ultimate Travel Company
Escorted Tours
Rediscovering the Raj

With Guest Lecturer Sir Roy Strong & Joanna Worsley

18th February – 4th March 2016

Contact
Emily Pontifex
Direct Line 020 7386 4664
Telephone 020 7386 4620
Fax 020 7386 8652
Email emily@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk

Sir Roy Strong

Writer, historian, diarist and gardener, Director of the National Portrait Gallery, 1967-73 and of the Victoria & Albert Museum, 1974-87, Sir Roy is a prolific author on a wide range of subjects from British history to the history of eating, from garden design to British art. His interest in India was aroused when he directed the V & A which has the largest Indian collection outside the subcontinent and through his wife’s family, the Trevelyans who served under the Raj.

Joanna Worsley

After leaving school, Joanna travelled extensively through Asia working in Hong Kong and Delhi and developing a passion for India. She then spent several years in Los Angeles producing film and music videos. Being half Greek she has a particular love for Greece too and has a house on the island of Skyros.
Foreword

“A successful tour needs contrast: light and shade, humble and grand, movement and repose. This one has startling contrasts, ones thrown up by a country where the very idea of conservation is still new. On the one hand the British Residency at Hyderabad, built for James Kirkpatrick and his Indian wife and designated a World Heritage site, is in a state of collapse while, in sharp contrast in Mumbai, the Victoria and Albert Museum (sic) has been restored in all its technicolour glory. In Shimla the Viceregal Lodge is an imposing heroic shell housing students while, within walking distance, the Gaiety Theatre, not long ago on the verge of disintegration, has been put back to the palmy days when Raj officials and their wives acted the plays of Oscar Wilde. This is a tour with lots of surprises, ones which depend on careful planning and a network of contacts opening closed doors. Both of us are confident that you will share our sense of excitement and discovery.”
Detailed Itinerary

We are delighted to offer the opportunity to explore the remarkable architectural and artistic legacy of British rule on the subcontinent. From Hyderabad to Mumbai, Lucknow, Delhi and Shimla we shall explore an extraordinary variety of colonial buildings which survive to this day.

The tour also encompasses the very essence of India - colourful spice and flower markets, exotic temples, flamboyant palaces, delicious local food, and last but not least its vibrant street life.

Day 1: Thursday, 18th February
London / Hyderabad

Early afternoon departure from London Heathrow on a British Airways flight to Hyderabad.

Day 2: Friday, 19th February
Hyderabad

Hyderabad and its Nizam were allies of British rule right down to 1947. On arrival, transfer to the Taj Krishna Hotel where two nights are spent. Nestled in beautifully landscaped gardens in the Banjara Hills area of Hyderabad, the hotel has distinctive charm, magnificent views of the city and excellent amenities including a variety of restaurants and a swimming pool.

Lunch at the hotel. In the afternoon an optional visit to Charminar, built in 1591 AD, the architectural crossroads of the city and the Mosque of Hyderabad 1660, and walk through Bangle Alley also known as Laad Bazaar. In the evening Sir Roy will give an introductory talk with drinks followed by dinner at the hotel.

Day 3: Saturday, 20th February
Hyderabad

Morning visit to the two Paigarh palaces of the aristocracy starting with Baradai Khurshid Jar, modelled on the classical British Residency, followed by Viqar Ul Umara / Iqbal-Ud-auds-Dewdi. Walk past the Victorian clock tower (1892) to the exotic Chowmahalla Palace. This was the Nizam’s palace, last lived in in 1911 but used for the last coronation in 1967.
Picnic lunch. Afternoon drive past the High Courts (1916) to the British Residency, a World Monument built in the classical style for James Kirkpatrick who married a Hyderabad princess. It is currently a girls’ college. Short tour followed by dinner at the Falaknuma Palace Hotel, another aristocratic palace recently fabulously restored.

**Day 4: Sunday, 21st February**  
Hyderabad / Mumbai (Bombay)

Morning flight to Mumbai, the old East India Company trading station of Bombay. We transfer to the luxurious Taj Mahal Palace and Tower Hotel where three nights are spent. Built in 1903, bringing together Moorish, Oriental and Florentine styles, the hotel has panoramic views of the Arabian Sea and the Gateway of India, built to receive George V and Queen Mary for the 1911 Durbar and itself a city landmark. The renowned American architect Melton Bekker, conceived the Tower wing in 1973 with its arched balconies topped by a jagged diadem. Talk by Sir Roy at the hotel.

Late buffet lunch at the hotel. Drive to the recently restored Victoria and Albert Museum, now called Dr Bhau Daji Lad Museum, classical without and a Victorian ironwork fantasy within. Time permitting, visit the cantonment area and the Afghan Church. Dinner under own arrangements.

**Day 5: Monday, 22nd February**  
Mumbai (Bombay)

Morning walking tour passing a stunning panorama of mostly late Victorian Gothic architecture: the Wellington Fountain, Prince of Wales Museum, the former Council Hall (now the Police Headquarters), Regal Cinema, Museum of Modern Art and Elphinstone College. Visit the David Sassoon Library. Walk past the Army & Navy Building and Watsons Hotel to the University Campus to see the courtyard and library. Visit the Old Secretariat followed by a stop for tea.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Drive to the monumental Victoria Terminus to see the ticket office, followed by the High Court and the Central Telegraph Building. Dinner at the Bombay Yacht Club.

**Day 6: Tuesday, 23rd February**  
Mumbai (Bombay)

Drive past St. Andrew’s Church, the Writer’s Building, the old docklands wall and the Customs House of 1665 to St. Thomas’s Cathedral. Walk around the elegant Horniman Circle, a circus in emulation of Bath. Visit the old Town Hall, now the Asiatic Society. Drive through the Ballard estate avenues.
Lunch at Khyber Restaurant. Optional shopping at Fab India. Or optional afternoon boat trip to the Elephanta Caves accompanied by your local guide. Please note that the tour lasts approximately 3 hrs 30 mins and involves boat ride of 1 hr each way and a climb up 120 steps. Alternatively to the climb, you can hire a palanquin at an additional cost. Return to the hotel before an evening at the Art Deco Liberty Theatre with a private screening and dinner on the roof terrace (subject to confirmation).

Day 7: Wednesday, 24th February       Mumbai (Bombay) / Lucknow
Morning flight to Lucknow and transfer the Taj Vivanta Hotel where three nights are spent. Just a few kilometres from the city centre, the hotel’s architecture reflects the glories of the Nawabi era with graceful pillars, rich tapestries, and intricate decoration. There are two restaurants and a lovely swimming pool.

Lunch under own arrangements. In the afternoon, wander through the Chowk (market). Evening talk on the Mutiny by Sir Roy. The So-Called Mutiny, with drinks followed by dinner at the hotel.

Day 8: Thursday, 25th February        Lucknow
Visit the utterly extraordinary La Martiniere School, built as the residence of General Claude Martin, followed by the classical Dilkusha Palace, built by the Nawab as a summer hunting lodge. Continue to The Residency, a huge complex of impressive ruins preserved as a memorial of the famous Mutiny siege.

Lunch at the Royal Café. Drive to Sir Henry Havelock's Tomb in Alambagh. Victorian walk with tea, taking in the Hazaratganj shop. Dinner under own arrangements.

Day 9: Friday, 26th February          Lucknow
Visit the monumental Asfi Imam Bara followed by a horse and cart ride (tonga) to the Nawab Picture Gallery with its portraits of the Nizams. Walk to Husainabad Imambara, centre for mourning and sorrow.

Lunch at Dastarkhawn which serves Awadhi cuisine. Return to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure. Dinner at Khajoorgaon Palace.

Day 10: Saturday, 27th February       Lucknow / Delhi
Morning flight from Lucknow to Delhi and transfer to the Imperial Hotel, Delhi’s landmark hotel, where two nights are spent. Conceptualised in 1934 by Blomfield and inaugurated by Lord Willingdon in 1936, it was designed to be one of the finest masterpieces in Lutyen's master plan for New Delhi. Rooms are spacious
with high ceilings and sumptuous décor, equipped with modern amenities, and the hotel has several award winning restaurants. The public spaces and corridors are hung with an impressive collection of Raj subjects.

Lunch under own arrangements. Visit the Jama Masjid Mosque, India’s largest and one of the buildings not demolished after the Mutiny, followed by a rickshaw ride through the old city to the Red Fort, seat of the Moghal emperors until 1857. Return to the hotel for drinks and an introductory talk on Delhi by Sir Roy. Dinner at Daniel’s Tavern at the hotel.

Day 11: Sunday, 28th February   Delhi

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit Lutyens’ Rashtrapati Bhavan, once the Viceroy’s Palace, followed by its Moghul Gardens.

Lunch at Maidens Hotel Restaurant. Afternoon panorama of Lutyens’ Delhi including the Church of Redemption, the Anglican Cathedral, the India Gate, Teen Murti Bhavan, initially the Governor General’s house, then Nehru’s residence, now a Museum. Dinner under own arrangements.

Day 12: Monday, 29th February   Delhi / Shimla

Morning visit to Humayan’s Tomb, the first great Mughal garden tomb built in 1565. Drive to a hotel near the airport for an introductory talk on Shimla by Sir Roy.

Lunch at hotel restaurant. Afternoon flight to Chandigarh. Drive to Shimla (journey time 3 hrs), from 1864 the summer seat of the British government. Check in at the Oberoi Wildflower Hall hotel where three nights are spent. The hotel is set within twenty three acres of protected cedar forest, with panoramic views of the Himalayas and features a heated outdoor jacuzzi, a wonderful spa and an indoor swimming pool. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 13: Tuesday, 1st March   Shimla

Drive to Ripon Hospital to see the plaque listing the illustrious donors. Drive past the old buildings of the secretariat to Woodville Palace, a heritage hotel since 1977. Walk to Raj Bhavan, formerly Barnes Court. Walk past various heritage buildings to one of the first churches built in North India in 1846, Christchurch, on The Ridge. Those who do not wish to walk can be driven to the lift and walk the last five minutes to the church.

Lunch at Ashiana in the parade area, originally the bandstand. Walk down the steps at the side of the Town Hall and visit the restored Gaiety Theatre from 1887 with its photo gallery of late Victorian productions.
Visit the Minerva bookshop and then walk down the steps lined with food stalls, through the middle market to the lift. Tea at Chapslee, built in 1935 and once home to the Maharaja of Kapurthala. Today his grandson, Kanwar Ratanjit Singh owns the property and lives there. The interior remains unchanged. Dinner under own arrangements.

Day 14: Wednesday, 2nd March  Shimla

Take the small train to Tatadevi to enjoy mountainous views. Drive back to visit the Viceregal Lodge, a huge residence in Scottish baronial Tudor-ethan style, now the Indian Institute of Advanced Study. See the photo gallery behind the Souvenir Shop with its records of viceregal life.

Drive to the bottom of the lift and have lunch at Café Sol on the Mall. After lunch, at leisure. The walk from Café Sol back to the hotel is 35 minutes mostly downhill and passing lots of heritage buildings including Gorton Castle. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 15: Thursday, 3rd March  Shimla / Delhi

Morning flight to Delhi and transfer to the Trident Gurgaon airport hotel where one night will be spent. The hotel is set in Gurgaon's business district, just 7 miles from Delhi airport, amongst seven acres of landscaped gardens, walkways, courtyards, refectory pools and fountains. Facilities include a Spa by Angsana, a heated outdoor pool and a fitness centre.

Lunch under own arrangements and afternoon at leisure. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 16: Friday, 4th March  Delhi / London

Transfer to Delhi airport for a British Airways morning flight to London, arriving at Heathrow Airport in the afternoon.
Tour Price

COST PER PERSON: £5,840
Single supplement: £1,320
Visa fees: TBA
Club Class upgrade: on request
A fee of £95 per person will be charged for those who would like to travel out or back separately from the main group.

The tour cost includes:

- economy class scheduled flights
- air passenger duty, passenger service charge, airline security charges, airport taxes and fuel surcharges where applicable – currently £364 (liable to change without notice)
- accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- breakfast daily; 11 lunches; 10 dinners
- wine with meals taken outside the hotels where the group are staying
- all visits and excursions as per the itinerary
- all transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- all entrance fees
- local English-speaking guide/s
- gratuities to driver/s
- gratuities to guide/s
- gratuities in restaurants;
- porterage
- the services of your tour leader and guest lecturer throughout

The tour cost does NOT include:

- travel insurance
- visa
- excess baggage
- items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 08/01/15

Changes to the Itinerary

Please note, that certain elements of this itinerary, and/or the order of events, may well be subject to alteration due to circumstances beyond our control.
Fitness to travel

Whilst we do not impose any age limitations on joining a tour, participants must be reasonably fit. The very nature of the sightseeing involved in our tours (and the difficulties of direct access by coach in various places) means that a considerable amount of walking and standing is unavoidable on almost all tours. We regret that our tours are not suitable for people who have difficulty in walking, may require wheelchair assistance at any time, or are unable to keep pace with the group. If you are in any doubt as to the suitability of a tour, please make this known to us before you book and we will advise you accordingly. The Ultimate Travel Company reserves the right to decline a reservation without necessarily giving a reason.

Airline Tickets

As a tour operator we have access to special airfares. While these offer good value, they do carry certain restrictions applied by the airline. Please ask us for details.

Note: If you are thinking about using air miles to upgrade to a premium cabin on the flights, please check with us first as fare restrictions might not permit this.

Accommodation

Hotels are chosen on the basis of category, character and location. The majority will be at least 4 star, otherwise the best available. The projected size of the group will often rule out the use of luxury boutique hotels. Sometimes the style of hotel will mean that not all rooms are of the same size or have the same outlook.

Health Requirements

No vaccinations are required for entry into India however if you have travelled within a yellow fever infected area during the previous six days prior to arrival you will require proof of inoculation. The following inoculations are recommended: Typhoid, Hepatitis A and B, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio. Malaria is present throughout most of India so anti-malaria prophylactics are advised. Detailed advice can be found on: http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations.aspx

Please check recommended practice with your GP, practice nurse or travel health clinic.

Passport and Visa Information

A visa is required for entry into India for British passport holders, which is normally valid from the date of issue for a maximum stay of six months in India. Passengers should hold a full passport, which should be valid for six months after you return to the UK and should also have at least three empty pages for the visa. Nationals of other countries should consult their local Indian Embassy. The visa process is currently undergoing changes and there is the possibility of having to make an appointment for biometric data to be collected. More information on the exact procedure will be available later in the year.

For British passport holders and for non-British nationals resident in the UK, visas can be arranged through CIBT Visa Service Company (an application pack will be provided two months before travel) or direct to the High Commission at http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk.

Baggage Allowance

Please note that the internal flights within India have a baggage allowance of 15kg per person. Excess baggage is charged at a flat rate of INR 300 per kg inclusive of service tax.
FCO Advice

Travel advice issued by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office can be viewed at www.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo.