

DATE: 03/01 (arrival day New Delhi) until 03/15/23 (departure day New Delhi without trekking) or until 03/20/23 (departure day New Delhi with trekking)

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 8 - 14

YOUR GUIDE: Gulab from my indian cooperation partner.



Gulab, 47, is from Jaipur, India. He studied a Master of Arts in history and perfected his knowledge of German at the Goethe Institute in Pune. Since 2010 he has been working as a tour guide for German and English speaking groups. He is fluent in English, Hindi, Punjabi, Rajasthani and German. He likes to read, loves music and travel and appreciates the exchange with travelers.

As group leader will join the trip [Florian](#)

PROGRAM:

Day 1: Arrival New-Delhi. When you arrive at the airport, you will be picked up (shared transfer) and taken to the hotel. The rest of the day is at your free disposal. Meal included: None. Overnight Hotel Sarovar Muse or similar.

Day 2: Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi. After breakfast we drive to the old town and take a walk through the silver street, the decoration market, the bread street and the spice market. You will be fascinated by the largest spice market in Asia. Then we take a bike rickshaw tour through the old town. We will then make a photo stop at the Red Fort and India Gate. We drive past the Parliament and Presidential Palace and visit Humayun's Tomb (UNESCO World Heritage Site). Meal Included: Breakfast. Overnight Hotel Sarovar Muse or equivalent.

Day 3: Agra Fort and Moonlight Garden: Drive to Agra (approximately 4 hours drive). On arrival we will visit Akbar's Agra Fort. It was the main residence of the Mughal Emperors Akbar and Shahjahan with palaces and mosques. In the evening we visit Methab Bagh or also called Moonlight Garden - this is a park on the opposite bank with a beautiful view of the Taj Mahal. This side of the river is also associated with the myth of the black Taj Mahal. Overnight Hotel Crystal Sarovar Premiere . Meals included: Breakfast



Day 4: Taj Mahal at sunrise and the pink city. Early morning visit of the Taj Mahal at sunrise. Built by Shah Jahan as a token of his love for his late wife, it is undoubtedly the most imposing and romantic tomb in the world. Then we return to the hotel for breakfast and after that we continue to Jaipur, also known as the pink city. We break the journey in Abhaneri and visit the stepwell. This impressive building from the 9th cent. Consists of 3500 steps, has 13 floors and is about 19 meters deep. After our arrival in Jaipur we check in at the hotel. Driving time: Approx. 5 hours with a longer break/break in Abhaneri. Meals included: Breakfast. Overnight Hotel Khandela Haveli or equivalent.

Day 5: Palace of the Winds and Water Palace. After breakfast we drive towards Amber Fort. En route we visit the Palace of Winds, also known as the Hawa Mahal, from the outside, as this ornate building is now little more than an exterior facade dotted with bay windows and carved balconies. From these, the royal ladies could get a glimpse of the outside world without being seen themselves.



After sightseeing we drive back and make a photo stop at Jal Mahal (Water Palace). Then we will visit the City Palace and have a walk followed by a tuk tuk ride in the old town. We then visit a well-known carpet and gemstone factory, where you can see the skilled artisans at work. Overnight Hotel Khandela Haveli or equivalent. Meals included in the price: breakfast, dinner

Day 6: Sanctuary of the Hindus. After breakfast we drive towards Pushkar. Arrive in Pushkar, the Hindu religious city in the Ajmer district of Rajasthan. In the afternoon we will visit the Brahma Temple at Pushkar Lake and have a walk through the local market. The rest of the day can be used as freetime. Driving time approx. 3 hours. Meals included: Breakfast. Overnight Hotel Master Paradise or equivalent.



Day 7: The blue city. Today we drive to Jodhpur, also known as the blue city. It still fulfills its historical role as the region's most important trading center for timber, cattle, camels, cotton, salt and grain. The beautiful old town is surrounded by a 9.5 km long wall and has 7 fortress gates. Upon arrival we visit the Meherangarh Fort which is perched on a steep hill and offers a beautiful view over the city. Then we also visit the Jaswant Thada cenotaph. Overnight Hotel Devi Bhawan. Travel time approx. 4 hours. Meals included in the price: Breakfast.

Day 8: Visit to the Hijra spiritual community. After breakfast drive to Jawai. Today could be a very memorable day as you will meet a spiritual teacher of Hijra in his own haveli (private villa). We come to the 400 year old Haveli where you can meet members of the Hijra community. You will also enjoy a homemade lunch with the guru. The Hijra spiritual teacher/guru is widely respected in the area and people seek blessings from him. Hijras are officially granted third gender status by the Indian government. Driving time approx. 3 hours. Meals included in the price: breakfast, lunch, dinner. Overnight at Godwad Safari Camp.

Day 9: Leopard Safari. This morning we enjoy a jeep safari to spot leopards. Jawai is a small town in Pali District off the beaten tourist track. The area is known for its impressive leopard population. It is surrounded by the arid rocky landscape of the Aravelli mountains with cacti and acacias. The river and the Jawai reservoir are nearby. This picturesque spot is home to some of the largest crocodiles, as well as a number of native and migratory birds. Then we continue to Poshina - a cultural heritage in the tribal areas of the Aravalis. There we take a village walk in the evening and visit the market. Driving time approx. 2.5 hours. Meals included in the price: breakfast, lunch, dinner. Overnight Darbargadh Poshina Heritage Home or similar.

Day 10: Poshina and safari through the Adivasi and Garansia tribal areas. Today we explore the surroundings of Poshina. We can watch craftsmen forging swords, daggers, bows and arrows, or pottery making terracotta horses and other figurines. Enjoy a jeep safari that offers a fascinating glimpse into rural Indian life. Drives through the scenic countryside include visits to the remote Adivasi and Garasia villages and to shepherds such as the Rabaris who keep camels, sheep and goats. Meals included in the price: breakfast, lunch, dinner. Overnight Hotel Overnight Darbargadh Poshina Heritage Home or similar.

Day 11: Ahmedabad. We drive to Ahmedabad. The textile industry is the main industry of Ahmedabad, that's why it is known as the "Manchester of India". Upon arrival visit Adalaj Stepwell. Located in the tranquil village of Adalaj, this stepwell has served as a resting place for many pilgrims and caravans for hundreds of years. Later we visit the Sabarmati Ashram of Mahatma Gandhi and the Sidi Saiyyed Mosque. In the evening we take a walk through the old town. To experience the glory of Ahmedabad, it is necessary to walk through the Walled City and truly observe the natural beauty of its rich and diverse architecture, art, religious sites, culture and traditions. Travel time approx. 3.5 hours. Meals included in the price: Breakfast. Overnight at Hotel Sarovar Portico or equivalent.



Day 12: Laxmi Vilas Palace. We drive to Rajpipla. On the way in Vadodra we visit the Laxmi Vilas Palace and the Maharaja Fateh Singh Museum. A visit to Laxmi Vilas Palace is one of the most striking attractions in Vadodara. It is four times the size of Buckingham Palace. In addition to the outstanding architecture, the lush green surroundings with peacocks and monkeys add to the beauty of the palace. The huge palace complex also includes the Maharaja Fateh Singh Museum. It has an extensive collection of artifacts and paintings by renowned artists. Afterwards drive to Rajpipla. Meals included in the price: breakfast and dinner. Overnight Natwar Niwas or equivalent.



Day 13: Visit to Prince Manvendra. In the morning after breakfast you can relax and we will all be excited to meet the prince Manvendra Singh Gohil. We'll get a chance to meet him and have a good time with him. Manvendra is the first prince in the world to publicly come out as gay. His path was anything but easy, but despite many hostilities and hurdles, he has asserted himself as a vocal advocate of LGBTQ rights in India. Finally, his lifelong wish was granted and homosexuality was legalized in India. After lunch with the prince at his palace, drive to Vadodara. Driving time approx. 2 hours. Meals included: breakfast, lunch. Overnight The Fern Residency or equivalent.

Note: This trip is run with the support and collaboration of Prince Manvendra Singh and a portion of the profits will go to an organization called Lakshya Trust which works to support the LGBTQ community in India. If you wish, you can also donate money to support this organization

Day 14: Sacred ritual on the Ganges. From today we have to get up early to fly to Dehradun (domestic flight). We get the breakfast package from the hotel. After our arrival at airport proceed to Rishikesh. In the afternoon we take a walk in the old town. In the evening we experience the sacred Ganga Aarti ritual on the banks of the Ganges. Prayer is one of the most popular attractions in Rishikesh and a special experience. Meals included: Breakfast. Overnight Urban Nomads or equivalent.

Day 15: Today differs depending on whether you have booked the additional trekking program in the Uttarakhand-Himalaya region:

1. Without connecting program trekking: Rishikesh - Dehradun - Delhi (flight to Delhi departure 18.45 h - arrival 19.40 h). After breakfast we take a half day city tour of Rishikesh. We will visit some temples, Parmarth Ashram and Laxman Jhula Bridge. Later transfer to Dehradun airport to catch flight to Delhi. Depending on the departure date, you can fly home the same day or stay overnight in Delhi. Included meal in the tour price: breakfast. If you wish, we can book an additional night in a hotel (not included in the price)

2. If you book the additional trekking program: Rishikesh – Lohjung. In the morning we drive to Lohjung. We drive through narrow valleys and small mountain villages and enjoy the beautiful mountain landscapes. With every curve we experience new views and impressions of the remote region. We make a few stops along the way at the temples and markets. In the afternoon we reach our destination Lohjung, which is the starting point of the trekking tour. The rest of the day is at your leisure. Driving time with numerous interruptions 8 hours. Overnight at basic Patwal Guest House or equivalent. Meals included in the tour price: Breakfast and dinner

OPTIONAL CONNECTION PROGRAM BRAHMATAL TREKKING

The next few days we hike at an altitude between 2100 and 3600 m on the Brahma Valley Trek, it is considered an outdoor jewel and is little known in German-speaking countries. It is partly snow-covered until mid-March and is nevertheless easily accessible with a wonderful view of the imposing Himalayan giants on a clear day. March is spring, snow and already blooming flowers create a magical contrast. Spectacular sunsets, the wonderful landscapes and the friendly mountain people make this route an unforgettable experience.



Day 16 Lohjung (2350 m) – Baikavalley (3000 m) ↑ 600 Hm, Approx. 4-5 hours pure walking time, 6 km. We hike over the mountain ridges, along the fresh and clear watercourses, green meadows and through rhododendrons, oak and bamboo forests. On the way we will visit villages to experience the simple life of the villagers and their traditions. The accompanying team will serve us an excellent meal during the trekking days. We will learn how to cook Indian cuisine over a campfire in simple conditions using a variety of spices. Overnight in tent. Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner

Day 17: Baikavalley (3000 m) – Brahmavalley (3200 m). ↑ 200 Hm ↓ 550 Hm. Pure walking time approx. 4 - 5 hours 7 km. After breakfast we hike in the direction of the Brahma Valley, a beautiful route. We will reach Brahma Valley at noon. Enjoy the day in the Brahma Valley and take a walk to nearby Brahma Temples and experience the beauty of the place. Weather permitting, we can enjoy a beautiful sunset. The starry sky is also sensational when the weather is clear. We will enjoy our dinner and the glittering milky way. Overnight in tent. Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

Day 18: Brahmavalley (3200 m) – Khamila Top/Brahmavalley Peak (3600 m) – Brahmavalley (3200 m). ↑ ca. 400 Hm ↓ ca. 400 Hm. Pure walking time approx. 5 hours. 6 Km. We do a trek to Brahma Valley Peak which is about 3 Km from Brahma Valley. The peak is at an altitude of 3846 m. In case of clear visibility we will have a great view of Trishul (7120 m) and other giants of the Himalayas. This is a 1 day hike to the summit and back. Those who prefer to stay in the camp can of course do so as we will be staying there for another night. Overnight in tent. Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

Day 19: Brahmavalley - Lohjung. ↓ 850 Hm. Pure walking time approx. 4-5 hours 10 km. Today we say goodbye to the beautiful place and return to Lohajung on a different route. On the way we enjoy the beautiful view and nature. After reaching Lohjung, we check in at the hotel. The rest of the day is at your free disposal. Overnight at Patwal Guest House or similar. Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

Day 20 : Lohjung – Dehadun - Delhi. After breakfast, we drive back to Dehadrun Airport (approximately 8 hours drive with stops) to catch the flight to Delhi. Depending on your departure date, you can fly home from Delhi on the same day or stay overnight in Delhi. If you wish, we can book an extra night in Delhi for you. Included in the price: breakfast.

Important Notes:

Changes or deviations from the advertised itinerary during the trip are possible at any time due to the nature of our trips. In particular, changes in local conditions and weather-related influences mean that the specified itinerary cannot be guaranteed. In this respect, the above advertisement only represents the planned itinerary without guaranteeing the exact process in detail.

Covid-19 Note: Gay-Aktivreisen and its cooperationpartner always provide their services in compliance with and in accordance with the official regulations and requirements applicable at the time of their stay. For this reason, there may be corona-related appropriate usage regulations or restrictions when using the services. Please also note any short-term official requirements for entry into your travel destination.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:

Although we limit ourselves to a relatively small part of the vast subcontinent of India on this tour, the distances are still great, requiring lengthy driving and a domestic flight to cover the distances. So you should be able to handle long car rides by minibus.

The first two weeks up to day 15 have no physical fitness requirements. But you should be able to deal with the warm subtropical climate, temperatures can reach 30 degrees in March. Furthermore, you should be aware that parts of India are characterized by severe poverty and that the hygienic and infrastructural conditions there are not comparable to Europe everywhere.

The trip is not suitable for people with reduced mobility.

Participation requirements for optional connecting trekking from day 15:

This trek is neither technically nor physically difficult. If you are in **good physical condition, weatherproofed, used to hike** and if you have the **right equipment**, the

stages would be also suitable for you as trekking beginner. You only hike with a daypack, your luggage will be transported. The pure walking times are approx. 4 - 5 hours and each stage has an incline of 200 - 850 m to be overcome. The highest optional point is around 3800 m (summit ascent), otherwise up to approx. 3400 m. At this altitude, the first symptoms of altitude sickness can already appear. Being in good physical condition is no guarantee, but increases your chances of coping with the altitude. You should do regular fitness training 2 to 3 times a week at least a few months before the start of your trip. In addition, the stages are planned in such a way that you gradually get used to the altitude. For emergencies, a small oxygen bottle is carried by the escort team

The temperatures on the Brahma Trail are in stark contrast to the subtropical climates of the previous part of the journey. In March, temperatures of -7 to +10 degrees and snow can be expected on the trek. You need good equipment and a warm sleeping bag for the overnight stays in tents.

[Equipment list Trekking>>](#) (only in german available, please use google translations.)

3 nights on the trek are in tents in the great outdoors. There is no running water, no toilets and no electricity. You should be flexible enough to be able to do without comfort during these 3 days.

Anyone with health problems of any kind should discuss participation in the trip with his doctor before booking the trip.



A giant awakens. The gays of the second most populous country in the world no longer want to be oppressed. Homosexuality is no longer punishable in India. On September 6, 2018, after 158 years, the Supreme Court amended the article in the Indian Penal Code, which dates back to colonial times, and legalized homosexuality. Nevertheless, social acceptance is zero and you should appear discreet and reserved in public. This also applies to same-sex partners.

YOUR FLIGHT TO INDIA:

You have to book your flight from your home destination to Delhi on your own. It is not included in this trip. Start of our service is Delhi airport (collective airport transfer).

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Normally you need a visa and a negative PCR test (not older than 72 hrs) or a proof of fully vaccination. Please get information from the foreign ministry of your home country about the entry requirements that apply to you!

HEALTH:

A full Covid-19 vaccination is necessary for this trip. Vaccination against hepatitis A and typhoid, possibly also against rabies, hepatitis B and Japanese encephalitis are recommended as travel vaccinations.

Due to a certain risk of mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue etc. throughout India below 2000 m altitude, a consultation with a tropical doctor as well as the regular application of mosquito repellent and the wearing of long light-colored clothing (long pants, long-sleeved shirts) is required recommend.

A few simple measures are enough to reduce the risk of diarrheal diseases: Never drink unboiled tap water anywhere in India and brush your teeth with mineral water. Avoid drinks with ice cubes or mixed drinks with tap water. No uncooked or peeled fruit and vegetables, no salads.

I recommend you to have a travel health insurance for this trip.

SERVICES INCLUDED IN THE TRAVEL PRICE MAIN PART 01. - 15.03.22

- 14 nights in *** middle class hotels and guesthouses, at least one **** hotel
- Entrance fees
- German-speaking tour guide (also english speaking)
- Program as specified
- Domestic flight Vandora – Dehradun and Dehadrun – Delhi in economy class
- Meals according to the program
- Airport collection transfer
- All transfers according to the program in an air-conditioned bus or car

TRIP PRICE:

- in a double room: 2369 euros per person
- Single supplement: 595 euros

OPTIONAL BOOKABLE BRAHMATAL TREK 15. - 20.03.22:

- 2 nights in a simple guest house
- 3 nights in a tent
- All transfers and meals according to the program
- Tour guide
- Luggage transport
- Accompanying team with cook

in a double room/twin tent: 280 euros

Single room/single tent supplement: 100 euros

The cost of your flight to India, visa fees, meals not mentioned in the program, drinks, tips, possible camera and video fees at sights are **not** included in the travel price of the entire trip.

NOTE: For this trip, according to my terms and conditions separate cancellation costs and cancellation periods apply, which are adapted to the legal conditions of my Indian cooperation partner. I strongly recommend taking out travel cancellation insurance.

SIGN UP:

Here is the [online registration](#)

After I got your registration you will receive a booking confirmation and your security certificate from me. A deposit of 20% of the travel price is due by booking confirmation another 30% up to 60 days before starting the trip and the remaining amount must be transferred up to 45 days before the start of the trip.

In case of questions from me at line, see you soon! Florian.

www.gay-aktivreisen.de