PAUWELS TRAVEL BUREAU LTD. 95 Dalhousie Street, Brantford, Ont. N3T 2J1 Tel. 519-753-2695 / 519-756-4900 Fax 519-753-6376 tours@pauwelstravel.com - www.pauwelstravel.com **The Wondors of Northern India & Phyta** 

# The Wonders of Northern India & Bhutan

Wednesday, Nov.2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016



Garry Burns will be your escort through lands steeped in ancient culture with exotic sights, sounds, tastes, or architectural splendours at every turn as you ride an elephant through the gates of a Mughal Fortress, a camel across desert dunes, and discover Bhutan's ethereal 'kingdom in the sky' including a flight over Mt.Everest.

> Tour Cost: \$9,350.00 from Toronto "Land Only": \$8,650.00 Single Supplement: \$1,355.00 \*Pay entire balance by cheque and save \$400\*

# **Proposed Itinerary**

#### Day 1 - Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> : Toronto - New Delhi

Departure in the late afternoon from Toronto's Pearson International Airport with Air Canada *(or)* Jet Airways service direct to New Delhi, India. Dinner, breakfast and lunch will be served.

#### Day 2 - Thursday, November 3rd: Arrive Delhi

Evening arrival at Delhi International Airport, where we meet our hosts who will welcome us to a city with a long lineage of rulers who fixed their royal citadels and parliament here. They will then transfer us to our hotel. **Overnight Delhi** 

#### Day 3 – Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> : Delhi

After breakfast we will be given a tour of India's capital city beginning in **Old Delhi** the former seat of Mughal Power with its ancient monuments, narrow streets and bustling bazaars. Driving past the vast Red Fort, built in 1648, we visit the Gurdwara Bangla Sahib Sikh Temple, the Raj Ghat, a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi and the Jama Masjid, the greatest mosque in India completed in 1658 by Shah Jehan. Following lunch we make our way to **New Delhi** where we drive past the stately government buildings of the British Era



Iama Masiid, Old Delhi

designed by Edwin Lutyens including the India Gate & the Presidential Palace. Today's tour ends at the beautiful tomb of Humayun, first of the great Mughal architectural masterpieces and an exquisite example of Indo-Islamic Afghan architecture and the 12<sup>th</sup> C. towering minaret of Qutub Minar made of red sandstone covered with intricate carvings and verses from the Qur'an. At 74 meters, it is the tallest brick minaret in the world.

#### **Overnight Delhi**

#### Day 4 - Saturday, November 5th: Delhi - Agra

We leave by bus after breakfast, stopping en-route to visit the Swaminarayan Akshardham epitomizing 10,000 years of Indian culture, and the expressive contemporary Lotus Temple of the Bahai faith before continuing to Agra.

Though the heritage of Agra is linked with the Mughal dynasty, numerous other rulers also contributed to the rich past of this city. Modern Agra was founded by, Sikandar Lodhi 2<sup>nd</sup> ruler of the Lodhi, Pashtun dynasty in the 16th century.

Babar, founder of the succeeding Mughal dynasty, also resided in Agra, which came into its own in the  $17^{\text{th}}$  C. when Shah Jehan ascended the throne



Lotus Temple, Delhi

of the Mughal Empire and built the 'crown jewel' of Mughal architecture, the Taj Mahal as the central feature of a 'Garden of Paradise'.

**Upon arrival check in at the hotel.** The remainder of the day at leisure. **Overnight Agra** 

#### Day 5 – Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>: Agra

After breakfast at the hotel an amazing day in Agra begins with a sunrise visit to the most admired of Mughal structural and landscape architecture the serene Taj Mahal. Little needs to be said about this artistic wonder built by Shah Jahan, as a loving memorial to his beautiful wife Mumtaz Mahal. This monument. taking 22 vears to complete, is extolled for its superb symmetry, elegant contours, intricately carved marble jaali (*lattice screens*) and intarsia. We return to the hotel for breakfast followed by a visit to Agra Fort lying on the bend of the river Yamuna with a view of the Taj from its walls. From 1563-73 Akbar built the fort as his citadel employing a majestic mix of Indo Islamic styles. It has imposing gates and massive walls of red sandstone. The superb jaali in the scalloped arches of the Moti Masjid (Pearl Mosque), created during the reign of



Sunrise, Taj Mahal, Agra

Shah Jahan, are paramount among Agra Fort's dazzling wonders. After Lunch we cross the Jumna River to the **Tomb of I'timād-ud-Daulah**. Often described as a "jewel box", its design is thought to be a draft of the Tāj Mahal.

#### Later in the afternoon you will have the opportunity for a visit to the Mother Teresa Charity Mission. Overnight Agra

#### Day 6 - Monday, November 7th : Agra - Jaipur

Breakfast at the hotel before our bus ride to Jaipur. We'll take time along the way to visit Fatehpur Sikri founded in 1569 by the Mughal emperor Akbar to honor the Muslim saint, Shaikh Salim Chishti who had foretold the birth of Akbar's son and heir, Jehangir. The city was Akbar's capital until 1584. By 1605 it was largely deserted because of an inadequate water supply and political unrest in the area. A masterpiece of Muslim architecture, the city is unique in India as a largely intact Mughal city. The expert craftsmanship of the exquisitely refined marble jaali screening the tomb of Shaikh Salim Chishti is miraculous.



Fatepur Sikri



Just before arriving in Jaipur, we take a short detour to the farming village of Abhaneri to visit the incredible 9<sup>th</sup> C., 13 storey deep 'Chand Baori' (*step well*) lined along its steep descending walls with 3,500 double flights of steps arranged in perfect symmetry, used to reach the bottom of the well. According to a legend, the village is so called because the Goddess Harshat Mata, who is portrayed in a joyous mood in the sculptural program on the walls of the entrance is believed to spread brightness or "abha" all around. We continue the drive to Jaipur checking in at the hotel upon arrival.

# **Overnight Jaipur**

Abhaneri village & Step Well

#### Day 7 – Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> : Jaipur



Street Scenes Jaipur

Breakfast at the hotel before we begin our tour of Jaipur, the bustling capital of Rajasthan.

Popularly known as the 'Pink City' the historic city of



Jaipur stands out as one of the world's most spectacular and culturally vibrant destinations. The city retains its 'old self ', immersed in a fast-paced modern city. You can see extreme contrasts on the streets of Jaipur with a puzzling blend of bicycles, rickshaws, motorized vehicles, camel carts and cows, with people wearing dhotis, turbans, kurtas, saris, Salwar kameez, suits, tank tops and jeans. Your city

tour will include the imposing City Palace, home to the Maharaja. Several of the rooms are now open to the public. Many antiques and artifacts belonging to the ruling family are housed here. You will also visit the Hawa Mahal, "Palace of the Winds", and the open-air Jantar Mantar Observatory to see vast 17<sup>th</sup> C. astronomical instruments. We stroll through the colourful bazaar before returning to our hotel. **Overnight Jaipur** 

#### Day 8 -Wednesday, November 9th : Jaipur

Breakfast at the hotel followed by an exciting excursion to the impressive **Amber Fort**, situated on a ridge just outside Jaipur. At the foot of the hill you will mount your caparisoned elephant for the slow but steady climb to the main gate, making your entrance in the time honoured fashion of a maharaja. The Fort, completed in the early 18th century, took over 100 years to build and now, although deserted, offers a fascinating insight into the lifestyle of the Mughal ruling families. After lunch at the Raj Palace hotel, the rest of the day is at leisure for individual interests.

Optional visit SOS Children's village – SOS Children's Villages of India is a non-profit, nongovernment, voluntary organization, committed to the care of children in need.

**Overnight Jaipur** 



Elephant ride to the Amber Fort, Jaipur

#### Day 9 – Thursday, November 10th : Jaipur – Pushkar (Approx 86 mi.)



En-route to Pushkar

Our first stop following breakfast at the hotel is at the Barefoot College in Kishangarh, then we continue to Pushkar a mellow, serene and bewitching little town which attracts those in search of some respite from the tumult of India. Pushkar is right on the edge of the desert. This travelerfriendly town clings to the side of the small Pushkar Lake with its many bathing ghats and temples. Because



En-route to Pushkar



Sadhus on pilgrimage to the Brahma Temple, Pushkar

Pushkar is a very important Hindu pilgrimage centre it attracts many Sadhus (individuals on a spiritual

search). **Upon arrival check in at the tented accommodation / hotel.** After lunch we take a stroll through Pushkar with its many temples, and bathing ghats. Most famous of the temples is the Brahma Temple, one of only two in India dedicated to this deity. It's marked by a red spire, and over the entrance gateway is the Hans, or

goose symbol of Brahma, who is said to have personally chosen Pushkar as its site. Rest of the day is at leisure to explore the Camel Fair (Pushkar Festival). **Overnight Pushkar** 

## Day 10 – Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> : Pushkar



Following breakfast at the hotel, we have a pull- cart transfer to the Pushkar Camel Fair celebrated for five days from Kartik Ekadasi to Kartik Poornima which according to the legends, are the days when Brahma created Pushkar Lake. The fair is synonymous to a cattle fair, as mass trading of camels, cattle, horses, cows, goats, and sheep, take place during these five days. Although various animals are traded, camels rule the roost. They are washed spanky clean and adorned

with various drapery and ornaments and paraded through the fair. Stalls selling jewelry and other finery for camels are set up. Silver bells and bangles around their hoofs jingle when they walk past the golden sand dunes. A ritual involves piercing the camel's nose. With over 25,000 camels exchanged, the Pushkar Fair is arguably the world's largest camel fair.

#### **Overnight Pushkar**

## Day 11 -Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>: Pushkar – Bikaner (Approx 160 mi.)

Today we travel by bus to Bikaner. Pass by the Lallgarh Palace, a small beautiful palace of the Maharajah of Bikaner as we arrive in the city. Shortly after lunch tour the Rajput Junagarh fort and its fabulous palaces built by Rai Singh between 1588 and 1593, which has a 986-metre-long wall with 37 bastions. "One hump or two?" Try some camel milk ice cream during a visit to the government-managed Camel Research and Breeding Farm the only one of its kind in Asia. **Overnight Bikaner** 



Camel Milk Chocolate Ice-cream and Camel Milk Chai

# Day 12 - Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> : Bikaner – Jaisalmer (Approx 206 mi.)

An afternoon arrival in Jaisalmer brings us to our hotel to check in and have lunch. The name Jaisalmer evokes a vivid picture of sheer magic and brilliance of the desert. Local color and warmth prevail over the inhospitable and forbidding terrain, imbuing the medieval town with a special magic, which is yours to explore or just relax and enjoy the atmosphere.

**Overnight Jaisalmer** 



#### Day 13 - Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> : Jaisalmer

One of the main attractions is the imposing 12th century Jaisalmer Fort. This morning we stroll through this fortified Rajput desert community built in 1156 by Rawal Jaisal. One fourth of the population of Jaisalmer lives



Tightrope Walker, Jaisalmer Fort

inside the Fort. which triumphantly rises above the shimmering citv of stone it commands. Inside the fort we visit the Jain Temple, and palace. After lunch we take a walking tour through the lower city to visit the



Salam Sina Ki Haveli

Patwan-Ki and other elaborately carved sandstone havelis built by wealthy merchants.

#### Overnight Jaisalmer

#### Day 14 – Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> : Jaisalmer

This morning explore the enchanting Royal memorials of Rawalsin Barra bagh, then make our





Village, Thar Desert

way into the desert stopping along the way at the graceful pleasure pavilions of Gadisar Lake before riding through the sparse agricultural landscape to Khuri sand dunes. a must visit for finding the solitude of the



Rawalsin Bada baah Pavilions

desert. It is a peaceful place with houses of mud and straw decorated like the patterns of Persian carpets. Enjoy a ride on camel back and let the place itself take you to its mesmerizing heights. Get closer to the local way of living with a close view of thatched straw roofs, camels, narrow streets and the local bazaar. As the day passes, we gather around a campfire, listen to the songs of

'Kalbeliyas' and try Rajasthani cuisine while we study the changing hues of the sand dunes as the day passes. Celebrate a mesmerizing adieu to the sun as it sets behind the crimson red sand dunes before returning to your hotel in Jaisalmer. **Overnight Jaisalmer** 

### Day 15 – Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> : Jaisalmer – Jodhpur (195 Miles / Approx 5 hours drive)

Breakfast at the hotel then drive through the arid sub tropical Thar Desert before reaching Jodhpur. Stretches of sand in the desert are interspersed by shrubbery, stony hillocks, and gravel plains. Due to the diversified habitat and ecosystem, the vegetation, human culture and animal life in this arid region is very rich in contrast to the other deserts of the world. Jodhpur rises at the edge of the desert. It was founded in 1459 by Rao Jodha, a chief of the Rajput clan known as Rathores. The city has a history of battles and royalty highly evidenced by the huge Meherangarh fort overlooking the city. Upon arrival, we will check in at the hotel and after lunch tour the Mehrangarh palace fortress, and the, Jaswant Thada a graceful temple cenotaph built of translucent marble



commissioned by the wife of Maharaja J. Singh II. **Overnight Jodhpur (Fort Chanwa Hotel, Luni)** 

Turban wrapping lesson, Meherangarh Fort.



Evening Garden, Fort Chanwa Hotel,

#### Day 16 - Thursday, November 17th : Jodhpur - Delhi (flight)

After breakfast we take some time to enjoy the unique hospitality of Fort Chanwa restored to its pristine glory and charm by its proud owners Maharaj Dalip Singh & Rani Madhu Devi, who warmly welcome travelers from distant lands offering princely hospitality in an inimitably enchanting setting- a Heritage Hotel in the finest of traditions before making our way to the airport for our flight to Delhi. Remainder of the day in Delhi for personal pursuits.

# **Overnight Delhi**

#### Day 17 – Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>: Delhi - Paro - Thimphu

After breakfast at the hotel transfer to Delhi's Indira Gandhi's International Airport for our onward flight to Paro where we will board a bus for our journey through the mountains to Thimphu. (1hr.) After checking into our hotel we visit the School for the Traditional Arts.

#### **Overnight Thimphu**

#### Day18 - Saturday, November 19th: Thimphu

This morning is an early start to visit the bustling Thimphu market which attracts people from all over the region. Later we begin a day of sightseeing at the Tibetan inspired National Memorial Chorten. Built in 1974 in honour of Jigme Dorji Wangchuck the third King of Bhutan. After lunch we make a brief visit to the National Institute of Traditional Medicine where traditional medicines are researched, prepared, and dispensed to the local Bhutanese after which we make our way to the Tashichho Dzong on a hilltop just outside Thimphu.

#### **Overnight Thimphu**

#### The bustling Thimphu market G.Burns

# **Day 19 – Sunday, November 20**<sup>th</sup> : **Thimpu - Punakha** (77 Km/48 Miles/3hrs.)

This morning we leave Thimphu and drive eastward climbing steeply through oak, pine and rhododendron forests to the, Dochu-La Pass which, at 3,140 meters, is the highest point of the journey. Crowned with prayer flags and a Chorten, on a clear day the pass affords a magnificent panoramic view of the Bhutanese Himalayas. We then continue down to Punakha with its semitropical climate. After lunch we go to the confluence of the Mo Chhu and Pho Chhu Rivers to visit the Punakha Dzong Completed in 1638 AD the Dzong has had numerous additions to its original structure – partly due to fires in the

1750s, mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century and, more recently in 1986. There are numerous chapels and temples within its walls. In the late afternoon we take a short excursion just south of Punakha to stroll through Wangdi Phodrang a characteristic Bhutanese town along the banks of the Puna Tsang Chhu river before returning to our hotel. **Overnight Punakha** 



Punakha Dzong 1986 G.Burns





Rinpung Dzong, Paro G.Burns



Dochu-La Pass 1986 G.Burns

#### Day 20 – Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> : Punakha / Gangtey (90 kms - 3 hours)

This morning, leave for Gangtey. After lunch explore Gangtey Gompa & Phobjikha valley. Spotting black necked cranes in the meadows next to Gangtey is an ornithologist's delight. The cranes migrate here from the high plains of the Tibetean plateau in winter to milder climate of Phobjikha valley. Also visit Gangtey Gompa Monastery, the only Nyingmapa monastery in this region. Nyingmapa is the oldest of the four major schools of Tibetan Buddhism.



**Overnight Gangtey** 

Young Monk with Pigeon G.Burns

#### Day 21 – Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>: Gangtey / Paro

(200 kms - 7 hours)

After breakfast in the hotel, we proceed to Paro. Upon arrival in the late afternoon we check into our hotel. Take time to stroll through the market with its many craft shops before dinner.

#### **Overnight Paro**

Mother&Child in Farm Field G.Burns



#### Day 22 – Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Paro

This morning drive through the Paro Valley to the base of the climb that leads to the famous Taktsang Monastery a major pilgrimage site for the Bhutanese since 1646, spectacularly perched on the promontory of a cliff 900 meters above the valley floor and Drukgyel Dzong where on a clear day one can see the commanding view of Mt. Chomolhari from the village nestled below the dzong. The beauty of Paro valley is embellished by the cluster of farm houses where we visit a traditional 'pounded earth' farm house. **Overnight Paro** 



Building a Pounded Earth Home G.Burns



Day 23 - Thursday, November 24th : Paro - Delhi

Prayer Flags G.Burns

Say farewell to Bhutan as we transfer to the airport for

1hr. flight to Delhi. In Delhi, you will be met on arrival and transferred to the hotel. Rest of the day at leisure to pursue individual interests. *Optional Tour*: The National Museum of India which has over 200,000 works of art, of both Indian and foreign origin, covering more than 5,000 years of the rich cultural heritage.

#### Day 24 -Friday, November 25th : Delhi-Toronto

# Tour Cost: \$9,350.00 from Toronto "Land Only": \$8,650.00 Single Supplement: \$1,355.00 \*Pay entire balance by cheque and save \$400\*

# Included:

- Air...trans-continental & India domestic as per itinerary.
- All accommodation...4 Star and Heritage class hotels sharing twin/double bedded room. Tented accommodation in Pushkar.
- Service charges and present applicable taxes and gratuities.
- Porterage.
- All meals throughout; ....breakfast, lunch, dinner daily.
- India arrival/departure transfer, sightseeing tours and excursions by Coach.
- Bhutan travel with non air-conditioned Toyota Coaster.
- Bhutan Entry Fee and Taxes.
- All admissions as per itinerary.
- Services of accompanying English speaking guide throughout.
- Full time Pauwels escort.
- Elephant ride at Amber Fort in Jaipur.
- Camel ride in Jaislamer.

# Not Included:

- The current combination of airport taxes, security fees, and fuel surcharges at this time approx. \$1350 (\$700 for "Land Only" as domestic airfare taxes are still applicable) but subject to change; the final amount will be reflected on the final invoice.
- All expenses of a personal nature such as telephone bills, table drinks, laundry etc.
- Camera charges where applicable and per local custom.
- Beverages with dinners, and meals other than those outlined above.
- Coach /driver, guide gratuity of approx. 8-10 USD per person per day(\$175-220)
- Travel insurance: available through the Agency.
- Applicable multi-entry India visa. To obtain consult... http://cibtvisas.ca/travel-visa-search-results.php

If you experience difficulty obtaining the India Visa on line contact Garry Burns at <u>mailto:geegbyte@gmail.com</u> for assistance.

#### PAUWELS TRAVEL BUREAU LTD. 95 Dalhousie Street, Brantford, Ontario N3T 2J1 Tel: 519-753-2695/519-756-4900 Fax: 519-753-6376 Email: tours@pauwelstravel.com Ont. Reg. #1034992

#### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

#### **RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:**

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 is required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and application form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.

#### **REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:**

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

#### **CANCELLATION POLICY:**

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 46 days before departure:45 to 31 days before departure:Within 30 days prior to departure:

25% of tour cost 50% of tour cost 100% of tour cost

#### **RESPONSIBILITY**:

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. reserves the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary as outlined. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. Any savings realized by these changes will be passed on to the passengers, any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passenger. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. acts only as an agent in securing hotel, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided to tour members subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. also reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, in which case equitable refund will be made at the discretion of the tour operators.

#### **AIR TRANSPORTATION:**

Transatlantic economy flight by scheduled IATA carrier(s), based on an economy class group fare. All fares are subject to specific rules and regulations, to changes and to government approval. Deviations from the group flights are possible but subject to higher rates. Pauwels Travel will research any request for date or routing changes at the time they are requested. Should any individual rate be less than the group fare plus airline and administrative fees, the lower rate will be offered to the tour participant. Individual airfares are subject to immediate ticketing and the fare plus taxes must be paid at the time the ticket is issued by the participant requesting the change. Should the group airfare be the lowest available rate, an administrative fee of \$50.00 plus any airline charges will apply.

# **APPLICATION FORM**

Please book seat(s	) on the "Wonders o	of Northern	India and E	Bhutan Tour Nov.2 <sup>nd</sup>	<sup>d</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> 2016
Enclosed is my/our de	eposit of (	[\$750 per p	erson, <b>plus</b>	insurance premiun	n if taken.)
I will be travelling"Lan Deposit and insuran	ice premium, if tak	en, are du	e with regi	Inter stration. You will to departure.	im Payment \$1500. <sup>00</sup> <b>be invoiced for the balance</b>
		ORT (INFO	RMATION	PAGES ONLY) VAL	ID 6 MONTHS AFTER TOUR REGISTRATION.
PASSPORT NAME(S):	Please indicate t	he appropr	iate title (M	lr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., M	1s.)
Surname	First	Mid	dle(s)		
Surname	First	Mid	dle(s)		
If applicable, give you "Mary Elizabeth")			•		your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for —
ADDRESS:					
Postal Code:					_
PHONE:(Email)					
If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED?: YESNO					
If sharing, is there a B	ed preference?: twi	in	double_		
	l the office for prem	iums then r	record it on	application and add	ossible. d premium to deposit.
I /we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):					
	Date of Birth: Date of Birth:				
	-inclusive Package\$ Non-medical Package\$				
Other					
PAYMENT: Cheque					□ American Express
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Tel: 5	19-753-2695/ 1-8	00-380-39	74 / 519-3	756-4900 - Fax: 5	19-753-6376
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