Here’s How Your Exotic Holiday will Unfold…

**Day One & Two: Seattle to Dubai**
Your majestic trip begins as we shuttle you from your Seattle area home to the Sea Tac airport for your international flight to Dubai. Upon arrival, transfer to the Splendour of the Seas for our wonderful 7 night cruise. Dubai is a unique blend of the old and new. See its towering engineering achievements and landmark modern architecture. An 18th-century fort, historic districts of coral-stone homes and souks preserve Arab traditions and heritage.

**Meals: In flight meals- all meals on ship**

**Day Three: Khasab-Oman**
On the Musandam coast off Oman, just to the northeast of Dubai, is the enchanting city of Khasab. Discover the lasting mark Portuguese colonists left behind, and soak up the sun on the glittering shores of the Strait of Hormuz.

**Meals: All meals on ship**

**Day Four & Five: Muscat, Oman**
The capital of Oman is an intriguing mix of medieval heritage and modern architecture. Here you can stroll a labyrinth-like souk, visit Portuguese
Day Eight: Dubai (docked)
Dubai is a unique blend of the old and new. See its towering engineering achievements and landmark modern architecture. An 18th-century fort, historic districts of coral-stone homes and souks preserve Arab traditions and heritage. This
Meals: All meals on ship

Day Six: Cruising
Whether you seek an adrenaline rush or total tranquility, our ships have it all. Try rock climbing, ice skating and surfing 200 feet above the waves.

Day Seven: Abu Dhabi- United Arab Emirates
The discovery of oil transformed a fishing village into a thriving capital city. Modern Abu Dhabi features futuristic skyscrapers and luxury hotels as well as heritage museums, spectacular mosques, and traditional bazaars.
Meals: All meals on ship

Day Nine: Dubai
In the morning after breakfast, disembark in Dubai and transfer to your hotel. Enjoy the day as you wish or you may want to book an optional tour. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy Dubai as you wish.
Meals: Breakfast

Day Ten: Dubai to Seattle
In the morning after breakfast, we’ll have a free day to explore Dubai before boarding our late night direct flight back to Seattle arriving on the 12th. Welcome home!
Meals: Breakfast

Its Included:
- At home pick up in the greater Seattle area
- Roundtrip airfare from Seattle to Dubai
- All transfers
- 7 Nights onboard the Spleandour of the Seas
- All meals on ship
- All entertainment on ship
- Ports of call:
  - Khasab, Oman
  - Muscat, Oman
  - Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- 1 Night Dubai
- Fully escorted and narrated so you won’t miss a thing!

CANCELLATION POLICY
More than 100 days prior to departure:
Full Refund
99-60 Days prior to departure:
75% Refund
59-41 Days prior to departure:
50% Refund
40-31 Days prior to departure:
25% Refund
30 Days prior to departure:
No Refund
There can be no refund for any unused portion of the tour.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
Information regarding a variety of travel insurance policies are available upon request. We recommend that sufficient insurance be purchased to cover the possibility of lost or damaged baggage, accidents or illness.
a journey of the Senses

see
touch
taste
hear
smell
Can words describe 3.2 million sq. kms. of the Indian subcontinent? Can pictures capture a terrain as diverse as verdant forests, golden deserts and the majestic Himalayan range? Can stories tell you all you want to know about the complex cultures of the Indian people, their languages and dialects, their rituals and traditions? To feel her magic, be touched by her spirituality, experience her intensity or join in her celebrations, you have to be in India.

India Extension
$1999pp/do
Single Supplement:$495
India and its citizens simply do many things differently from most westerns. Below are some bizarre / annoying / misunderstood customs you might encounter.

**Staring and invasion of personal space**
Just being different is enough to garner a seemingly endless stare in India. You will find that any time you stop to take a photo, an incredible number of locals suddenly appear to observe your every move. When you open your bag or wallet, you'll find a local pretty much leafing through the rupees with you. What can you do? The first answer is not much. Personal space is not a concept in Indian culture, so staring and close contact should not be interpreted as rude behavior.

**Begging**
Although the poverty in India is sometimes difficult to deal with, we ask that you not give anything to beggars. Simply, handouts are not going to solve anything (apart from maybe assuaging your feelings of guilt) because they decrease the chances of helping these people to become self-reliant. Be prepared for the pressure to give; tourists usually give at least ten times the amount that Indian nationals do, so you will be an appealing target. The following is a common scenario: you decide to give a few rupees / a candy / a pen to a lone child. Somehow, before you know it, ten more children are swarming around you with outstretched hands and pleading voices. Most likely, you will not have enough for everyone, and the memory you will have of the experience is of the children that did not get anything, and the resultant squabbling.

**Unfamiliar Body Language**
Perhaps the most common Indian trait that can be misinterpreted is the ubiquitous “head-bob”. In fact, there are two types of head-bob, and each carries its own meaning. The first is a kind of short side-to-side tilt of the head, and more or less means “yes”. The second is longer, slower, and more undulating, and can be interpreted as “I see”, “maybe”, or even “uh-huh”. This type is worth learning, as it often works to ward off perspective hawkers and beggars. Hand gestures also carry various meanings. A quick twist of the wrist from palm-down to palm-up means “what do you want?”, “What are you doing?”, or “move along now”. A downward sweeping motion like somebody trying to fan fire means “stop, I want a ride”, or “I want to talk to you”. A good response to this one is the “uh-huh” head-bob described above.

**And in general….**
Despite advance preparation, it is still likely that you’ll be baffled by India. The driving style, the seeming lack of organization, the way men touch each other more than their wives, the way women do the heavy lifting in construction sites while the men look on… the list of differences between the West and India is seemingly endless. Perhaps the best advice we can give is to avoid trying to understand it, and just experience it instead.

Further…
A word of warning about travelling in India. India is a country which is very different from anything you will have experienced before. Although this means it is not the easiest place to travel, this is also what makes it so special. Pollution, poverty and the crowds can result in initial culture shock but should be seen as an exciting new challenge. In India there are very different attitudes to time keeping, public cleanliness, privacy and service. Trains will sometimes be late, plumbing can sometimes be temperamental and power will often just vanish. Optimistic menus turn out to have only one dish available and everyone, just everyone, will want to know your name. If you are able to travel with a lot of patience and a huge sense of humour, then we know that you - like all of us - will be captivated by what India has to offer.
Arrive at Delhi’s International Airport. Welcome to India! You are met by our representative in the arrival area of the airport after you clear all immigration and customs formalities. Depart for your hotel where you will check in for your stay.

New Delhi has expanded and now encompasses residential and commercial development to the west and south, plus the satellite towns off Noida, Gurgaon and Faridabad.

Delhi has overtaken Mumbai & Kolkata in recent years to become the most vibrant creative art centre in India. The city has more than twenty five galleries. Conducted tours, seminars, film shows and study classes on art appreciation, history and conservation are frequently organized. Most of the performing art centres are around Mandi House, Bhagwan Das Road.

Breakfast at hotel
Morning tour of Old Delhi
Rickshaw ride in Old Delhi
Afternoon tour of New Delhi
Overnight at the hotel

Greet the day on your first day in what is the world largest and most vibrant democracy. As you embark on your journey through this land you will experience the sights and sounds of what is India.

Delhi stands as the capital of Modern India. Here you can see the mingling of the Old and New India, the ancient and the modern. Delhi is made up of seven ancient cities, spanning the period from the 11th to 20th centuries. Delhi has seen the rise and fall of many emperors, which has left behind a plethora of monuments that commemorate the grandeur and glory of bygone ages. Very few cities in the world can express such a profusion of architectural styles.

Old Delhi was an ancient walled city. Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan in 1650 switched the Mughal capital from Agra to Delhi. Shah Jehan possessing an exquisite talent, especially in architecture, created the seventh city and in the process brought about Delhi’s glorious renaissance. Start the day with a cycle rickshaw ride through Old Delhi. Here you will see Red Fort the most opulent Fort and Palace of the Mughal Empire. The fort is Shah Jehan's symbol of power and elegance, built behind red sandstone walls. Its main gate (Lahore Gate) faces Chandni Chowk, the perpetually congested avenue heading west from the Red Fort is filled with twisting lanes, small streets and crowded bazaars. If you peer through a portico you may see a man getting shaved, silver being weighed, or any other conceivable form of intense commerce. Also visit Raj Ghat, the memorial site of the Mahatma Gandhi; Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India; and Chandni Chowk, the bustling and colourful market of the old city. Chandni Chowk was the commercial centre of Delhi in the old time and you will see it come alive in the morning as the trading day starts.
New Delhi was designed and built by the British in the 1920's - it's a city of wide boulevards impressive Government buildings, green parks and gardens. In 1911 King George V announced the transfer of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi. The King's architects, Lutyens and Baker, set in motion the design and construction of Delhi's eight city - New Delhi. Lutyens designed an "Imperial City" having palatial-sized buildings set amid broad tree-lined avenues punctuated by Mughal style gardens, complete with fountains and shallow pools. You will visit two monuments from Delhi's past - Humayun's Tomb and Qutub Minar.

January 13th: Delhi to Agra

This morning after breakfast drive to Agra. Upon arrival in Agra check in at your hotel.

Afternoon proceed for a visit to Taj Mahal

The area around the Taj Mahal is a protected area and the bus parking is approximately one kilometre away from the monument. Here we disembark and board battery buses to the Taj

That magnificent monument of love – The Taj Mahal, was built by an emperor in memory of his beloved queen. Construction of the Taj Mahal began in 1631, and is believed to have taken 22 years to complete, with over 20,000 craftsmen working round the clock. The design and construction is said to be that of the legendary architect, Ustad Ahamad Lahori. Legend has it that once construction was completed, Shah Jehan had Lahori's hands cut off, and blinded, so he would never be able to duplicate the structure. What makes the Taj Mahal unique is its perfect proportions, distinct femininity, medium of construction and ornamentation. Its marble exterior reflects rose and golden tints at sunrise and sunset, while it is dazzling white during the day. It is impossible to visualize the Taj Mahal in any surrounding others than its paradoxical garden. Paradise, in Islam, is visualized as a lush garden where running streams flow. When the Mughals brought this concept to India they elevated it to heights of incomparable artistry.

January 14th: In Agra

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Visit Agra Fort, Sikandra & Itmad Ud Daulah
- Overnight at the hotel

After breakfast proceed for your sightseeing tour of the Agra Fort, Sikandra & Itmad Ud Daula

Agra Fort, where you are taken through the chambers of this royal residence. As you drive through the city, witness the local life and bazaars (markets) and the hustle bustle of everyday India. Agra Fort is a UNESCO World Heritage site located in Agra, India. The fort is also known as Lal Qila, Fort Rouge and Red Fort of Agra. It is about 2.5 km northwest of its much more famous sister monument, the Taj Mahal. The fort can be more accurately described as a walled palatial city.

It is the most important fort in India. The great Mughals Babur, Humayun, Akbar, Jehangir, Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb lived here, and the country was governed from here. It contained the largest state treasury and mint. It was visited by foreign ambassadors, travellers and the highest dignitaries who participated in the making of history in India.

Itmad-ud-Daulah or "Baby Taj" as it is called sometimes. A highly ornate edifice, this mausoleum is considered as the imminent precursor of the Taj Mahal as far as elaborate carvings and inlay work are concerned. Though the structure does not have much to offer architecturally, it makes a clear departure from the earlier Mughal tombs built during the period and is more softer and with a lot of inlay carvings.
Sikandra – A Tomb of Emperor Akbar:

Akbar started constructing this mausoleum within his lifetime, but the construction was completed by his son Jahangir in 1613. The tomb in pyramidal shape consists of five storeys. The tomb has three-storey-minarets on its four corners. These minarets are built in red sandstone with beautiful inlay work of marble. On top is an open courtyard surrounded by a marble screen enclosing the tomb itself. The building is unique in its architecture. It has no domed roof, a complete departure from Islamic architectural tradition.

Set amidst a beautiful garden, the mausoleum is one of its kind in architecture. Jehangir made lots of modifications in the original plan of the building. The structure is perfect example of the development in the Mughal art & architecture. From the Humayun's tomb in Delhi to Akbar's Tomb in Sikandra finally to the Taj Mahal. The Baradi palace in the gardens was built by Sikander Lodhi. On the road from Sikandra to Agra are several tombs and two 'Kos Minars' or mile stones.

January 15th: Agra to Jaipur

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Drive to Jaipur – Approximately 5 hours drive
- En-route visit Fatehpur Sikri
- Upon arrival check in at your hotel
- Rest of the day at leisure
- Overnight at hotel

After breakfast begin your drive to Jaipur. Enroute visit Fatehpur Sikri

Fatehpur Sikri. - The imperial city of the Mughal dynasty between 1571 and 1584, Fatehpur Sikri was built by Mughal Emperor Akbar. The architectural grandeur of this deserted city cannot be described in words and one can only experience the aura of its magnificent edifices by seeing them. Fatehpur Sikri is the most popular day excursion from Agra, the city of Taj and capital of invincible Mughals for a long time. Today, as one enters Sikri from the Agra Gate, one of the nine gateways on the way to the palace complex, Diwan-i-Aam, or the hall of public audience appears first. It is a huge rectangular walled-in courtyard where petitions were heard, proclamations made, ambassadors received and entertainment programmes held. Ponder the mysterious desertion of this capital city that was dramatically abandoned a few years after it was built. It was a veritable fairy tale city and its 'ruins' are still in a pristine condition. It is not hard to imagine what the court life must have been like in the days of its grandeur.

Later continue your drive to Jaipur. Upon arrival check in at your hotel . Rest of the day at leisure

Known as the “Pink City”, Jaipur is the capital of the colourful state of Rajasthan. It has the distinction of being a well planned and laid out city. As you drive through the old part of town, you will witness a life most unlike others. Witness how the city blooms during the day in a kaleidoscope of colour and sound.

January 16th, 2016: in Jaipur

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Morning excursion to Amer Fort
- Afternoon city tour of Jaipur
- Overnight at hotel

Jaipur is where the enduring charisma of the past blends with the throbbing vitality of today. Where a colorful cast of characters - from painters and potters to artists and antique dealers - present a fascinating picture of a city that is alive to both tradition and change. Today, Jaipur has spread far beyond the pink crenellated walls that once defined its boundaries. It presents a fascinating picture of a city where growth, evolution and change are sustained by tradition.
After breakfast proceed for an excursion to inspiring Amber Fort. Amber Fort is a marvellous example of Rajput architecture with its terraces and ramparts reflected in the Maota Lake below. The interiors of the fort have various royal halls decorated with intricate ivory, mirror and glass windows. Afternoon proceed for city tour of Jaipur. This time on a city tour. You will visit the City Palace Museum where you can see an imposing blend of traditional Rajasthani and Mughal Art. The museum is resplendent with its collection of robes of royal princes, carpets, an armoury of old weapons, miniature paintings portraying court scenes, battle scenes and processions. Also visit the awe inspiring Jantar Mantar (an accurate observatory built in 1726 AD). Also included is a photo visit at the Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds) - a five storied wonder with a spectacular pyramidal facade and overhanging windows with latticed screens, domes and spires.

Located in the heart of the walled city, The City Palace Complex gives you an idea about the farsightedness of the founder of Jaipur Sawai Jai Singh. He left behind a legacy of some of the most imposing and magnificent architecture, art and craft structure in the city. Sawai Jai Singh built its many buildings but some of some of the structures were also built by later rulers and some of them are even dated in the in the twentieth century too. The palace is a blend of Mughal and Rajasthani architecture and the royal family still lives in a part of the palace.

On entering the complex and before the palace proper lies the Mubarak Mahal, the palace of welcome or reception. Sawai Madho Singh built the palace in the nineteenth century. It was used as a reception centre for the visiting personage. The building now forms the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum and on display here are a wide array of royal costumes, some very exquisite and precious Pashmina (Kashmiri) Shawls, Benaras silk saris, Sanganeri prints and folk embroidery. An unusual display is that of voluminous clothes worn by Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh I (ruled 1750-68).

Across the road from the palaces is the famous “Jantar Mantar”, one of the five observatories in India. Built by Sawai Jai Singh, this is one of the largest and the best preserved. A passionate hobby of the king in the field of Astronomy, numerology,insighted him to execute this observatory and with the help of skilled labourers, they managed to create a collection of complex astronomical instruments chiselled out of stone and most of which continues to provide accurate information to this day. The most striking instrument is the Brihat Samrat yantra Sundial, an imposing yellow edifice to the far right of the observatory complex which has a 27m high gnomon arm set at an angle of 27 degree. The shadow this casts moves up to 4m in an hour, and aids in the calculation of local and meridian pass time and various attributes of the heavenly bodies, including declination the angular distance of a heavenly body from the celestial equator and altitude. This highlight of the observatory has made it a centre of attraction for the tourist visiting Jaipur.

### January 17th, 2016: Jaipur to Delhi & Depart Delhi

- Breakfast at hotel
- Drive to Delhi – Approximately 5 hours
- Upon arrival transfer to airport
- Fly to your onward journey

Breakfast at hotel. Later begin your drive to Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi you will be transferred to the airport to board your flight for onward journey back to Seattle. Welcome home!

**Its Included:**

- Total of Six (6) hotel nights in India with breakfast
- Service of deluxe air-conditioned coach. Supplement cost for providing upgraded vehicle Volvo coach advised separately
- Visits as per program
- Elephant ride in Jaipur while visiting Amber Fort in Jaipur.
- One time entrance fee at the monuments
- A bottle of mineral water per person per day
- Services of an English-speaking accompanying tour manager/guide for whole tour. Tour guide will not stay at the same hotels
- All currently applicable taxes including Service tax

**Not included in the costs are:**

- Does not include any beverages including mineral water, soft drinks, alcoholic drinks etc unless otherwise specified. It is more cost effective for us to bill you for all beverages based on actual consumption.
- Any airfare
- Any Airport taxes
- Any items of a personal nature such as beverages, tips (except for group meals and baggage handling), laundry, telephone calls etc
- The prices do not include: undue escalation in fuel prices, new taxes levies on hotels and transportation services or any hikes in entrance fees. Any large tax hikes and new levies shall be payable extra and shall be billed accordingly with prior notice.