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Colors of India Photography Tour with Kyle Adler

Jan 24 – Feb 8 2018

Summary

From Jan. 24 through Feb. 8, 2018, join our small group of photography enthusiasts and experience India with all your senses. India is a dream destination for travel photographers: a vivid tapestry of colors, cultures, and chaos. We've planned this unique itinerary to provide ample opportunities to capture unforgettable images that you won't find in travel brochures and on postcards. Included are visits to two of the most colorful and exciting of India's exotic annual cultural celebrations, the Republic Day Parade and the Desert Festival (similar to the Pushkar Camel Festival but with far fewer tourists and photographers). We also search for wildlife in a national park hosting among the world's highest density of wild tigers, visit India's iconic forts and monuments, and seek authentic interactions with a diverse range of local people.

Our extraordinary photographic journey will take us through Delhi's colorful bazaars and to its annual Republic Day Parade, to the incomparable Taj Mahal in Agra, on to the annual Desert Festival with its rich tableau of dancing and cultural activities, and then on safari to seek the royal Bengal tigers of Bandhavgarh National Park, among other memorable destinations. Throughout this journey, we will be interacting with fascinating local people from all walks of life, whom we will get the opportunity to meet and to photograph.

Award-winning professional travel photographer Kyle Adler will be shooting alongside tour participants and will provide personalized in-the-field instruction. During our optional informal workshops, we'll review our recent images, plan our shot list for upcoming locations, and cover techniques to make the best images possible. Topics will be tailored to the group's interests and may cover any aspects of travel photography from shot planning to capture technique, and on to post-processing and image sharing. Unlike most photography tours, we will place a special emphasis on learning to use the camera as a bridge to enhanced understanding of the land and people we visit. Photographers of any level will see their images improve, and non-photographer friends and family are also most welcome to join this tour. You can make memorable images using whatever camera gear you wish to bring; it is not necessary to invest in specialized gear.

Itinerary

Day 1- WED. Jan. 24: ARRIVE DELHI

Arrive in Delhi, sprawling along the banks of the River Yamuna. The capital of India, Delhi typifies the soul of the country. The legacy of the past survives in the many monuments left behind by several dynasties, each a chronicle of the glory of its time and an imprint of each ruler's character. On arrival you will be met by a representative of A Classic Tours Collection and transferred to the hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to settle in and adjust to the time difference.

Day 2- THU. Jan. 25: DELHI TOURING- BD

Breakfast at hotel. Morning tour of Old Delhi. Your first stop is the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial at Raj Ghat. We then visit the Ashoka Pillar and the famous Chandni Chowk bazaars, once the shopping arcade of Mughal royalty. We take a rickshaw ride through the narrow and colorful lanes of the old market, offering an excellent opportunity to photograph daily life in Old Delhi. Finally, we visit Jama Masjid, India's largest

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mosque, with its striking marble domes and slender minarets. Climb the stairs to photograph the Old City and Red Fort. Enjoy lunch at local restaurant. Your sightseeing tour of New Delhi this afternoon includes a drive along Rajpath to photograph the Parliament House, President's Palace, and India Gate, a memorial to India's soldiers. Continue to Humayun's tomb, a 16th century monument that helped inspire the Taj Mahal. Your final stop is at the Qutab Minar, iconic symbol of the city of Delhi, and the ruins of Hindu temples destroyed during the Qutabshahi period.

Welcome Dinner this evening with Indian music and dances.



Worshippers waiting to enter a Delhi temple

Day 3- Jan. 26: FRI. DELHI- Republic day celebration- Box Breakfast & L

We rise early this morning and take our pre-reserved VIP seats to photograph the colorful Republic Day parade. The annual parade along the city's ceremonial boulevard, Raj Path, showcases Indian culture and the country's achievements in the fields of science and technology. The celebrations, which mark the signing day of the Indian constitution, include over 25 marching and mounted contingents in their colorful uniforms, battalions on decorated camels, cavalry, and the President's ceremonial guards. The military parade is followed by a colorful cultural parade. India's rich and diverse cultural heritage is depicted in the form of tableaux from India's states. Each state's contingent showcases its unique festivals, historical monuments, and art. This exhibition of diversity and richness of the culture of India lends a festive air to the occasion. With thousands of cultural performers and schoolchildren participating, India's Republic Day Parade is the most spectacular annually scheduled parade in the world. You will also have the opportunity to photograph



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thousands of spectators who come from all parts of India to see the parade wearing their traditional costumes.

To view some images of the Republic Day parade, please visit the following link-

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2017/jan/26/republic-day-in-india-in-pictures>

SALAAM BAALAK CITY WALK: (subject to availability)

The Salaam Baalak City Walk is an English-language guided tour of almost two hours conducted by street kids from Delhi's slums. The kids are adolescents who have been fully trained as local guides and who want to improve their communication and speaking skills. City Walk allows the children's stories to be heard and gives you a view of their world through their eyes. Those who take the City Walk tour through the streets of inner city of Paharganj and the area around the New Delhi railway station will be led by a child who was once living and working on the streets. Founded by noted international filmmaker Mira Nair (Monsoon Wedding, Mississippi Masala, Salaam Bombay!), Salaam Baalak is an example of how one woman's vision can translate into a unique and enduring program, which is both popular and economically viable. Over the last seven years, thousands have taken the Walk and empowered street children, helping them to join mainstream life.

If the City Walk should be unavailable due to the national Republic Day holiday, we will strive to meet some of the inspirational street kids who have organized and reported for a newspaper (affiliated with Salaam Baalak) called Balaknama (Children's Voice). These brave teens work to expose and reduce the abusive practices of child labor, police corruption, and street violence that have devastated the lives of tens of thousands of Delhi's street kids.



This 17-year-old girl is the primary organizer of 10,000 of Delhi's street kids and a reporter for the Balaknama newspaper

Day 4 – SAT. Jan. 27: AGRA & FATEHPUR SIKRI EXCURISON- BL

Travel by express train to Agra, location of the iconic Taj Mahal. Emperor Akbar, Jehangir, and Shah Jahan lavished their love and treasure on this fabled city, transforming it into one of the world's greatest centers of art, culture, learning and commerce. Travel overland to Fatehpur Sikri, once an imperial capital frozen in



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time, constructed by Akbar around 1570. It was abandoned as abruptly as it had been built. Also visit Sheikh Salim Chisti Dargah, originally built of red sandstone but later rebuilt in white marble by Jehangir.

Return back to Agra for lunch at Sheroes Café. Founded in 2013 under an initiative by the Stop Acid Attacks organization, Sheroes is one of South Asia's first organizations to educate the public about acid attacks and to empower survivors to re-enter society, earn an income, receive reconstructive surgeries, and pursue legal action against their attackers. We will have an opportunity to learn more about this important work while meeting some of the inspirational survivors who are fighting to end this heinous practice forever. We may respectfully make portraits of some of these brave women.

This afternoon we visit Agra Fort, built by three of the greatest Mughal emperors. Continue to the incomparable Taj Mahal, built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan between 1631-52, as a tomb and memorial to his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal (Jewel of the Palace). Stop at the Taj Museum for a close look at the architect's original drawings of this wonderful marble monument. We visit and photograph the Taj both during the day and at sunset.



The iconic Taj Mahal has been photographed countless times, but we will seek unusual vantage points to make unique images that avoid postcard clichés

Board express train back to Delhi and overnight at Hotel.

Day 5 – SUN. Jan. 28: Delhi/ Jaisalmer- BD



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After breakfast, we will transfer to the airport for our flight to Jodhpur. Upon arrival, we will be met by our local guide and continue on to Jaisalmer with plenty of time to stop en-route to take advantage of any photographic opportunities. We will check into our luxurious accommodations with some time to relax before dinner accompanied by colorful Rajasthani dances and music.

Day 6 & 7 – MON. & TUE. Jan. 29 & 30: Full days at the Desert Festival - BD

We will spend the next two days at the exotic Desert Festival in the picturesque Thar Desert. The desert will come alive during this exciting annual celebration with brilliant colors, camel races, camel polo, traditional processions, folk dances, music, turban-wrapping contests, cultural events, and more. Villagers will be dressed in their best and brightest outfits, as will their camels.

One evening, we will embark on a brief camel safari through the Thar Desert. We will have the opportunity to photograph the camels on top of the sand dunes at sunset. Upon arrival at our basic but comfortable camp, we will interact with and photograph the local villagers who will have many stories and experiences to share with us.

Day 8 – WED. Jan. 31: Jaisalmer Tour and Jodhpur - BL

This morning we will rise early to photograph Jaisalmer Fort, the people going about their morning activities, and the city itself slowly waking with the sunrise. This ancient old city was once completely surrounded by an extensive wall. We will pass by beautiful mansions or havelis, built by the wealthy merchants of Jaisalmer, and visit some finely carved Jain temples.

After breakfast we will travel to Jodhpur to visit the Mehrangarh Fort, considered one of the grandest sights in India. From the courtyard we see the fantastic latticework that covers the sandstone walls and balconies. We will see the beautifully decorated dancing hall, the royal bedroom, jewel-studded robes, ornate baby cradles, solid silver elephant seats and palanquins. Photograph the Blue City from the vantage point of the fort up on the hill.

Day 9- THU. Feb 1: Jodhpur- BD

The soul of India is found more in its countless tiny villages than in its sprawling cities. Today we immerse ourselves in the culture of the Bishnoi villages and learn about their 19 principles. The local people are colorfully dressed and their homes made of mud and cow dung. We will meet the village elders and witness an opium ceremony. Famous for their pottery, they will demonstrate their skills and we will have the opportunity to join in. We will stop by the Gudha village where we will see wildlife, including antelope, gazelle, dromedary crane, and more roaming around the village. Next will be the Salawas, known for their weaving of magic carpets. Lastly we will stop by a shepherds' village, a perfect place to photograph traditional village life. We will return to our beautiful palace to reflect on the day.

We will have the late afternoon and early evening at leisure to explore and photograph this fascinating city.

Day 10- FRI. Feb 2: Jodhpur/ Jaipur- BL

This morning we will board the express train to Jaipur. Photograph locals at the train stations, during the train ride, or simply relax and enjoy the passing scenery. Arrive in Jaipur, owing its name and fastidious urban planning to the great warrior and astronomer, Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II. A representative of A Classic Tours Collection will transfer you to the hotel.

We will have the late afternoon and early evening to explore and photograph the streets and squares of India's famed Pink City.

Day 11- SAT. Feb. 3: Jaipur- Amber fort- BD



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We will start our day at the Hawa Mahal, known in English as the Palace of the Winds. A spectacular façade of nearly 1000 windows was constructed to give the women of the court the opportunity to watch the street life of Jaipur, below. We will then visit the ancient capital of Amber, ascending the Palace Fortress on the back of a gaily-caparisoned elephant.

Later we will visit the markets of Jaipur where the people are dynamic and colorful, with pink turbans and saffron odhnis. Camel buggies and elephants share the streets with cars and buses. We will have plenty of time to take advantage of any spontaneous photographic opportunities en route.

Dinner at a local restaurant- Virasat- featuring traditional Rajasthani cooking, music, and dancing.



Jaipur's glorious Palace of the Winds offers exceptional photographic possibilities

Day 12- SUN. Feb 4: Jaipur - Morning Walking Photography Tour- BL

Jaipur offers a dazzling immersion into the riches of traditional India. Since its foundation in 1727, the royal family and nobles of Jaipur employed numerous craftsmen and artisans in the Pink City. Many of these traditions continue to this day, making the modern day Jaipur a quintessential destination to experience India's rich arts and crafts. Traditional methods are still used to produce valuable and highly prized items. Observe and photograph the local artisans including silversmiths and bangle makers at work. Mingle and talk with locals whilst sampling some of the regions culinary delights, such as samosas, kachori, kufli, and lassi. Sample sweets from some of the city's most popular mithaiwala's (Indian sweet makers). Meet a local family and experience Indian hospitality. It's a great way to explore Jaipur like locals do and learn about the rich artistic traditions of this fascinating city.



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Day 13- MON. Feb. 5: Jaipur/ Bandhavgarh National Park- BD

We fly this morning to Jabalpur via Delhi and continue overland to Bandhavgarh, known as the heart of white tiger territory. Stop en route to visit and photograph the villages, rural markets, and if we are lucky, a celebration, a temple festival, or a village fair. There are more than 22 species of mammals, and 250 species of birds that call Bandhavgarh National Park home. Many migratory birds can be seen during the winter months, including the steppe eagle and a variety of wildfowl. After settling in, we embark on an evening photography safari accompanied by expert game rangers. **HOTEL**

Day 14 & 15- TUE. & WED. Feb. 6 & 7: BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK- BLD

Bandhavgarh National Park's topography varies between steep ridges, undulating forest, and open meadows. The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is the highest known in India. This former hunting preserve of the Maharaja of Rewa is now a famous natural hub for white tigers. During the morning and afternoon game drives we may see white tigers, royal Bengal tigers, leopards, sambar, barking deer, nilgai, wild boar, gaur, chausingha, chinkara, Asiatic jackal, Bengal fox, sloth bear, rattle, grey mongoose, striped hyena, jungle Cat, wild pig, spotted deer, egret, lesser adjutant, sarus crane, black kite, crested serpent eagle, black vulture, Egyptian vulture, common peafowl, red jungle fowl, dove, parakeet, and more. The glorious and endangered tiger is always elusive, so there is no guarantee of encountering one, but we will have unprecedented opportunities to try to spot and photograph tigers during our several included game drives in small vehicles. **HOTEL**





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The royal bengal tiger, such as this female photographed in nearby Ranthambore National Park, is endangered and rarely seen in the wild. We will have unprecedented opportunities during our small-vehicle game drives to seek this elusive and wonderful creature.

One day we will embark on a full-day safari with included picnic lunch. Another day we will have one early morning and one late afternoon safari, and will spend the middle part of the day photographing and visiting the Bandhavgarh Fort.

Bandhavgarh is a place of mythological and legendary significance. The ancient Bandhavgarh Fort is of great importance as it is believed to have been gifted by Lord Rama to his younger brother Lakshmana. "Bandhav" means brother and "Garh" means fort. The human record of Bandhavgarh dates back more than two thousand years, and we will find several man-made caves with inscriptions and rock paintings.

Day 16- THU. Feb. 8: BANDHAVGARH/ DELHI OR MUMBAI- B

After an early morning game drive, you will be transferred to the airport, where you will board your flight to Delhi or Mumbai and connect to your international flight home or extend your stay in India, Nepal, Bhutan, or elsewhere.

Day rooms or an overnight stay at a hotel near the airport can be arranged depending upon your flight timings.



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Pricing and Inclusions

\$ 4,785.00 per person sharing

Single rooms: \$ 5,725.00

Includes:

- Hotel accommodations as listed below (or similar), with private bath/shower.

City	Hotel	Room Type	Duration
Delhi	The Met Hotel and Spa	Deluxe	4 Nights
Jaisalmer	Fort Rajwada	Deluxe	2 Nights
Jaisalmer	Prince Camp on Dunes	Standard	1 Night
Jodhpur	Ranbanka	Deluxe	2 Nights
Jaipur	Shahpura House	Suite	3 Nights
Bandhavgarh	Bandhav Villas	Luxury Cottage	3 Nights

- Meals as per itinerary
- Meet and greet services; assistance at airport, hotels, and train stations by Local ACTC representative
- Local English-speaking guide on all sightseeing tours
- Photography instruction/workshops
- Entrance fees to monuments, park fees, guide fees as per itinerary
- Train fares (pre-reserved seats)
- Tickets to Republic Day celebrations
- Participation at listed festivals
- Wildlife safaris with ranger guide by private jeep
- All applicable taxes on hotels and transport

Not Included:

- International airfares to and from New Delhi
- Internal India airfares as per itinerary (economy class is approximately \$280.00 per person)
- Meals not listed in itinerary
- Items of a personal nature (laundry, alcohol, telephone, gratuities for local guides/drivers, shopping)

Notes:

- Airfares are quoted based on lowest available fares at time of quoting. Subject to change, availability, schedules by airlines. Early purchase is recommended to secure best fares. Fares are non-refundable once ticketed.
- Taxes, entrance fees, and guide fees are also subject to change.
- The government of India may add a GST tax, which would slightly impact the tour price.



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About Kyle Adler

Kyle is an award-winning professional travel photographer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. An avid traveler, he has visited more than 100 countries and always has a camera or two along to capture the landscapes, wildlife, and cultures unique to each place. Kyle is a recent winner of the prestigious international competition, Travel Photographer of the Year and was shortlisted for the 2016 National Geographic Travel Photography competition. His work has been published in a variety of outlets internationally including National Geographic Online, CNN, The Telegraph, The Atlantic, Measure Magazine, the photography book "eXtremy", and fine art and commercial photography sites. His images have been exhibited in the UK and the US.

Kyle is passionate about helping fellow travelers improve their photography while learning to explore our world with greater cultural awareness and advocacy. He curates a travel photography forum, "To Travel Hopefully," at www.to-travel-hopefully.com. Kyle leads small group workshops and tours for photographers at any level from beginner through semi-professional. These tours cover all aspects of travel photography from shot planning to capture technique, and on to post-processing and image sharing, with an emphasis on learning to use the camera as a bridge to enhanced understanding of the land and people we visit.

When not traveling around the world, Kyle is in demand for photo shoots with clients ranging from nationally prominent musicians to local dance professionals and students. He is currently working on a book project documenting in images the cultural diversity of the San Francisco Bay Area and is preparing a solo exhibition of his works in Silicon Valley. His passion is advocating for social change via storytelling with his images.

Kyle's wife Mary will also be joining this tour. A senior technical publications manager with many years of project management experience at Silicon Valley software companies, Mary will be providing logistical support for the tour.



Kyle and Mary in Rajasthan, India, April 2017