

## **A journey through the Heart of India**

*A Study Abroad Program in North and Central India by Navsar*

*Duration: 14 Days*

*Tour Pace: Busy with time off to suit creative needs*

*Available throughout the year, October to March preferred*

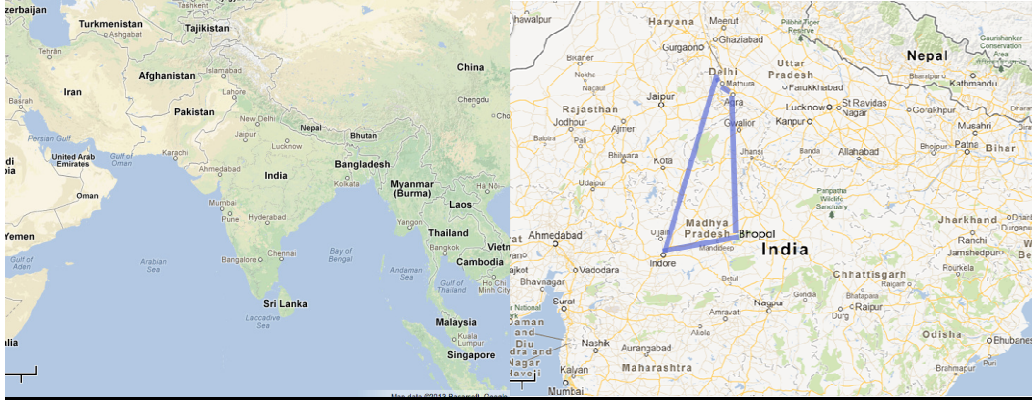


*Winterim Students from the University of Iowa in Mathura*

### **Overview of the Program:**

Travel with Navsar to the heart of India, to the state of Madhya Pradesh. We start in Indore, where we travel to the banks of the river Narmada, to the town of Maheshwar, where every house resonates with the sound of the shuttle of a handloom, weaving exquisite Maheshwari sarees which are now known all over the world. Moving onwards to Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, the group will visit the pre-historic cave paintings, the oldest in Asia, in Bhimbhetka. See the same motifs spring up on the canvases of the vernacular artists from this region who trace their roots to these ancient civilizations. We next move to Sanchi, to the best-preserved Buddhist site in the world, which was built by Emperor Ashoka in 2<sup>nd</sup> Century B.C. The gateways of Sanchi narrate the tales of various Boddhisatavas through their numerous incarnations. Visit the Mughals, in their capital city of Agra and see the sunrise at the Taj Mahal. Towards the end of your trip, get an insight into Sanjhi, the art of paper cutting by National Award winning craftsmen, at their studio in Mathura. Once, back in Delhi, experience and feel the secular world of India with an art historian and an overview of the city's contemporary art scene.

**See it on our map:**



**Tour Highlights:**

**Indore:**

-Visit the textile looms in Maheshwar, on the banks of the river Narmada.

**Bhopal:**

- See the pre-historic cave paintings of Bhimbhetka made over a thousand years ago.
- Meditate at Sanchi, the oldest and best-preserved Buddhist site.
- Interact with a folk artist and learn their craft (or maybe teach them yours!)

**Agra:**

-The symmetrical beauty of the Taj Mahal is best viewed at sunrise.

**Mathura:**

-Visit National Award craftsmen who still practice an age-old craft of paper cutting.

**Delhi:**

- A chronological tour of the city of Delhi, tracing its history.
- Early morning bicycle ride through the labyrinth of alleys of Old Delhi.
- Experience secular India with an eminent art historian through visits to various spiritual sites.

**Day by Day Sequence of our Tour\*:**

- Day 1: Arrival in New Delhi and a brief orientation by Navsar
- Day 2: Orientation in New Delhi. Visit the Arts and Crafts Museums and Craft Bazaars. Leave for Indore on an overnight train
- Day 3: Visit the textile looms at Maheshwar and the temple of Ahilya Bai, on the banks of the river Narmada
- Day 4: Leave for Bhopal to see the pre-historic cave paintings of Bhimbhetka. Visit a Gond artist
- Day 5: Explore Sanchi- the best preserved Buddhist monument from 2<sup>nd</sup> Cent BC
- Day 6: Visit the famous museums of Bhopal including the Bharat Bhawan and the Museum of Mankind
- Day 7: Take the day off, regroup your thoughts and fill in your notebooks
- Day 8: Leave for Agra and visit the old Mughal capital of Fatehpur Sikri
- Day 9: Visit the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort
- Day 10: A Demonstration by a National Award winning Sanjhi Paper Cutting Artist
- Day 11: Arrive in New Delhi and visit contemporary art spaces
- Day 12: Understand the religions of India with a known art historian
- Day 13: A chronological tour of Delhi's best monuments
- Day 14: Departure

\*Itineraries change depending upon the arrival dates of the group. A detailed itinerary will be provided on request. This tour requires an advance booking of two months to ensure confirmed reservations on trains.

**Accommodation:**

The accommodation varies from city to city. All our hotels are comfortable with twin beds and running hot and cold water. Some hotel may also provide free Internet. A general rating of our hotels in 3 stars

**Transportation:**

The Pre-Historic to Post Independence India Tour is conducted in air-conditioned railways coach between cities. For local transport, you will experience travel in cars, cycle and auto rickshaws, bicycle and even on foot.

**Meals:**

The Pre-Historic to Post Independence India Tour includes breakfast. Lunch and Dinner are not included.

**Inclusions:**

The tour cost includes accommodation, breakfast, pickup/drop from airport, guided tours and transportation between and within cities.

The tour DOES NOT include lunch and dinner, admission to museums and monuments, tips and any camera charges

**Note: This tour requires at least 60 days advance reservation with Navsar**

**Reviews:**

*"The University of Iowa Winterim Program provides an amazing learning experience for students interested in educational tourism. The depth and overview of the experience would not be possible without Navsar (Ambika Jain and Amit Kumar Jain). Navsar provides the insight and expertise for students to quickly access and understand the complexities they encounter during their time in India"*  
**Professor Anita Jung, University of Iowa**

*"Traveling through northern India with Amit and Ambika from (Navsar) was a phenomenal experience for me, my students and a University of Iowa colleague. Helping develop this class as an artist and not a specialist in Indian Art or Architecture, I was anxious about the experience for the students. It was one of the most enlightening, educational, thoughtful, caring, study abroad experiences I have had. Having worked in international student travel programs in the past, I had not expected the carefully organized and thoughtfully designed program that we experienced with Navsar. They thought of everything.... bike tours through Old Delhi, dinner in a locals home on their rooftop in Jaipur, professors of religion to take us through temples, art historians and anthropologists to discuss sites in a number of cities we explored. Amit's enthusiasm is infectious and he has a wonderful rapport with the students. Amit and Ambika are an incredible wealth of knowledge. As a well-known contemporary Indian textile specialist, Ambika introduced us to a number of craftsmen and women designing fabric and furniture as well as taking us to sculpture and painting studios. There was nothing left unturned, we frequented, galleries, museums, extraordinary historical sites and all gained weight eating at some of the most extraordinarily diverse restaurants in India. I am bring 19 students with Navsar this December and, hopefully can continue for many years to come."*  
**Professor Susan White, University of Iowa**

*"Looking back on my experience studying abroad in India, I can't help but smile. I went into it not knowing what to expect, and I couldn't have asked for more. Traveling around northern India with Amit and Ambika made my experience truly unique and one that I will never forget. I was constantly surrounded by welcoming people, captivating architecture, intoxicating aromas, and vibrant colors. All of my senses were awakened.*

*Every meal was an adventure, every outing more impressive than the last. I was always learning something new. Every taste, every smell, every sound was something new to me and I couldn't get enough of it! I would not have been able to experience India to the fullest had it not been for Amit and Ambika. They are so welcoming, enthusiastic and kind. Before I visited India, it was just something to cross off my bucket list but having fallen in love with the country, I cannot wait to visit again, and I have Amit and Ambika to thank for that!"*  
**Ms.Danielle Diedrich (2010-11)**



**Images:**



*Clockwise from Top Left Corner: a) Magnificent Lattice work in Fatehpur Sikri b) Guided Tour at the Agra Fort c) Meet a Gond Artist at their home d) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Sanchi Stupa e) A contemporary Gond Painting f) Lodhi Gardens, New Delhi g) A relief in Udaygiri Caves and h) The Taj Mahal, Agra*