



JEWELS OF INDIA TOUR 2020

23 FEBRUARY TO 07 MARCH 2020
Mumbai ~ Hyderabad ~ Jaipur ~ Delhi

Highlights :

- *Fully escorted exclusive group of 12 guests only
- *Private meetings with jewellers, curators and historians
- *Dinners with experts on India's jewellery traditions
- *Escorted tours through India's most famous jewellery bazaars
- *Private museum visits in Mumbai, Hyderabad & Jaipur
- *Visits to showrooms of traditional jewellers to India's princely states
- *Escorted by author, historian and India connoisseur, John Zubrzycki
- *Luxury accommodation in Taj hotels

All inclusive land only price AU\$ 9997 per person
International flights are not included

Jewellery may be the oldest art. It has always meant something important—as money, as a prayer to the gods, as a status symbol, as fashion—almost always a reflection of character and a contribution to beauty. Jewels take their name from the Italian “joy”, as a result they tend to be more enjoyed than studied.

This unique offering, the “Jewels of India Tour”, will take us on a 14-day journey through the heritage and significance of Indian gems and their craftsmanship, both historical and contemporary.



The tour offers unprecedented access to some of India's leading contemporary designers, jewellery historians, museum curators and families that have been involved in the gem trade for centuries. Our program of lunches and dinners will bring together speakers from different disciplines to explore the manifold facets of adornment past, present and future. True to our commitment to excellence we will be experiencing the best of Indian regional cuisine and using exclusively Taj Hotel group properties.



The tour will commence in India's vibrant commercial capital Mumbai, home to the country's largest jewellery bazaar. There we will meet some of the city's leading designers such as Viren Bhagat, whose work is coveted by connoisseurs many of whom count him among the greatest jewellers of our time. You'll be taken through the bustling streets and laneways of Zaveri Bazaar, home to thousands of wholesale and retail jewellery outlets and workshops where diamonds and precious stones are still cut by hand. A specially curated tour will take us inside the Prince of Wales Museum to view the extraordinary decorative arts sections. There will also be a visit to Saffronart, India's leading art and jewellery auction house where experts will discuss the significance of jewels in Indian history and the contemporary market.



From Mumbai we travel to Hyderabad, once the capital of the greatest and wealthiest princely state in India. Its Golconda mines produced the largest and most famous diamonds in the world. These were traded beneath the ramparts of the mighty Golconda fort on the outskirts of the city. Today Hyderabad is famous for its pearl markets, palaces and ancient Islamic tombs. As well as exploring Golconda and the adjacent



Asaf Jahi tombs, we will meet families that have been trading in pearls for generations, visit their showrooms in the old city and meet members of Hyderabad's nobility who will explain the significance of jewellery in daily life and ritual.

Our next stop in Jaipur, also known as the Pink City and home to India's only museum devoted to jewellery, the Amrapali. The capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur is famous for its bazaars, forts, palaces, lakes and thriving arts and crafts scene. As well as visiting Amber Fort and the City Palace complex, we go inside the hidden showrooms of jewellers to the Jaipur Maharajahs and visit the famous Gem Palace, known for its exquisite collection of tribal and traditional jewellery. There will be opportunities to interact with members of Rajasthan's erstwhile royal families and view crafts people at work.

Our final destination is New Delhi, India's vibrant capital. A highlight of the tour will be visiting Dariba Kalan, the jewellery bazar in the Mughal-era Chandni Chowk in Old Delhi, where some of the shops are more than 250 years old. We also visit the nearby Red Fort and Jama Masjid. Once again visits important sites such as Humayan's Tomb will be interspersed with specially curated tours of museums, arts centres and institutes specialising in jewellery and decorative arts, while dinners will provide more opportunities to learn from experts in their fields. As with other cities, there will be free time allocated for shopping opportunities or bespoke tours depending on your interests.

For Sydney-based clients, our first dinner prior to departure will be with world-renowned expert and collector Anne Schofield to discuss Indian tribal gold and silver jewellery.

Your host

Your host is writer and journalist **John Zubrzycki**. John graduated with a degree in South Asian history and Hindi from the Australian National University. He has worked in India as a diplomat, consultant and foreign correspondent and has spent years searching out its hidden gems. He is a best-selling author and has written three books on India. *The Last Nizam: The Rise and Fall of India's Greatest Princely State*, traces the history of Hyderabad whose rulers were said to have more jewels than all of India's other princes combined. *The Mysterious Mr Jacob: Diamond Merchant, Magician and Spy*, traced the life of the legendary Alexander Malcolm Jacob who became India's leading jeweller in the late 19th century. His latest book *Empire of Enchantment*, is a history of India's magical traditions. He is currently researching a book on Jaipur's royal family. He also writes feature articles for Australian and Indian news outlets. He has more than 40 years of travel experience in India.

For a detailed itinerary, contact Carole or Tina : travel@travelonq.com.au | T : +61 2-9357-6800

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