



**ITINERARY FOR COLORADO COLLEGE
EXPEDITION INDIA - 2008**

PHASE - I

DELHI : Delhi is the symbol of old and neweven the stones here whisper to our ears of the ages of long ago and the air we breathe is full of the dust and fragrances of the past, as also of the fresh and piercing winds of the present. Jawaharlal Nehru.

15th March 2008 – Late night arrival in New Delhi. Check-in to Hotel Trident, Gurgaon.

16th March – After an early breakfast at the Trident we set off by coach on a 100 km drive to Neemrana Fort Palace Hotel. **Built since 1464 AD, and restored in the 1980s, Neemrana Fort-Palace is India's oldest heritage resort.** Introductions among the group over lunch. Afterwards, we drive 150 kms to Samode. Samode is small village-town on the outskirts of Jaipur the capital of Rajasthan. **The Samode Palace has been meticulously restored offering a retreat into an aesthetically beautiful environment where visitors can enjoy India's natural beauty and rich history.** Overnight Samode Palace.

17th March – We drive in jeeps to the nearby village of Samode. There will be a picnic lunch and camel cart rides and interaction with the villagers amidst folk music and a carnival atmosphere.

18th March – After breakfast we drive 40 kms to Jaipur for the day. Site-seeing of Amber Fort, will be followed by lunch at the City Palace in Jaipur. **The picturesque capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur is color washed pink-the color associated with hospitality in Rajput culture. There is a timeless appeal to Jaipur's colorful bazaars where one can shop for Rajasthani handlooms and trinkets.** Thereafter some of us may “peel away” from the main group to do some shopping in the colourful “bazaars” and some others may drive to Dera Amer for elephant rides and “high tea”. Dera Amer is located in the scrub lands of the Aravali hills - the oldest mountains in the world. Drive back, 20 kms to Samode in the evening.

19th March – After breakfast we set off for Agra the city of the Taj Mahal, one of the architectural wonders of the World. Overnight at The Oberoi Amarvilas. **The capital of all India under the Moghuls, Agra remains undiminished. India's most popular tourist destination. The Taj effortlessly transcends all the frippery and commercialism that surrounds it, and continues to have a fresh and immediate impact on all who see it.**

20th March – After breakfast we go to view the Monument to Love - The Taj Mahal and then drive back to Delhi. Overnight at The Trident Hotel, Gurgaon.

PHASE II

21st March – We fly to Jodhpur today. Our Jet Airways flt # 9W 3311 departs Delhi at 1210 hrs and arrives at Jodhpur at 1330 hrs. We drive another 150 kms to the Narlai Desert Camp located in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan.

22nd March – At Rawla Narlai. We will do a Jeep Safari into nearby Forests where Deer, Leopards and Chital can be spotted. The safari also extends to a visit to the nearby Handicraft centre where locals craft Dhurries and handcrafted Textiles. In the evening there will be folk music by fire light under the desert stars.

23rd March – After a leisurely breakfast we drive back to Jodhpur and Ajit Bhawan. **Ajit Bhawan offers you Old World elegance, with the modern comforts of a classic heritage hotel and the essence of being a guest of the Maharaj's family.**

Set at the edge of the Thar desert, the imperial city of Jodhpur echoes with tales of antiquity in the emptiness of the desert.

After checking in at Ajit Bhawan and lunch we will visit the Mehrangarh Fort. Overnight at Ajit Bhawan.

24th March – We will have a half day for shopping and soaking in the atmosphere of the local bazaar or a lazy half day by the swimming pool before boarding our Jet Airways flt # 9W 3312 departing Jodhpur at 1330 hrs and arriving Delhi at 1500 hrs. We check-in to The Oberoi Hotel at New Delhi.

25th March – In Delhi. We will have a relaxed start this morning and finally wind our way to Lunch at Mr. O.P. Jain's, Anandgram Complex. The Complex houses a museum of Mr. Jain's personal collection of Indian Crafts, textiles and artefacts. Lunch will be served in the lawns. There will be pottery and other crafts for all of us to take a turn at.

PHASE III

26th March – We have an early start this morning to board the Dehradun Shatabdi Express train to Haridwar at 0655 hrs. We arrive in Haridwar at 1120 hrs. in the Shivalik foothills which is also the gateway to the Indian Himalaya. And transfer by coach for a 90 mins hill drive to the Himalayan River Runners tented camp on the silver sand banks of the Holy Ganges. After lunch there will be an Initiation rafting trip. Dinner and overnight.

27th March – Some Yoga and Meditation for those who may be interested. After breakfast Rafting on a different section of the river. Back in Camp for lunch. Afterwards camp activities like kayaking, rappelling, beach volley ball etc. After tea and snacks we will drive to the Holy city of Rishikesh to participate in the evening vespers on the banks of the rivers and witness the worship of the river amidst chanting by Hindu priests. Back at Camp for a bonfire and dinner.

28th March – Yoga and Meditation will available for those interested. Rafting on a different stretch of river or a long hike to a high-point at 7,000 ft for a distant view of the snow capped Himalaya with a packed picnic lunch. Back at Camp by early evening. Bonfire and dinner. Overnight.

29th March – We will depart the Camp at 0800 hrs after an early breakfast to drive to Haridwar and board the Nizamuddin Special Train at 1020 hrs for Delhi. We will arrive in Delhi by mid-day and check-in to The Oberoi. Rest of the day we relax or go out for some shopping.

30th March – Depart for USA