



XINHUA / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

## Itinerary

### Day 1 Flight to Delhi

Overnight British Airways flight to Delhi from London Heathrow.

### Day 2 Delhi

On arrival transfer to hotel. After lunch visit the Garden of Five Senses, then dine at the hotel.

### Day 3 New Delhi & Lodhi Gardens

Joe Swift joins you in New Delhi where you will see the India Gate; Qutub Minar, the world's tallest brick minaret; the spectacular Humayun's Tomb, and the remarkable Lodhi Gardens where you will lunch and take a garden stroll with a local botanist. Joe will also host a Q & A over dinner.

### Day 4 Old Delhi & Mughal Gardens

Again with Joe, you will visit the Mughal Gardens. Only open to the public for four weeks, these beautiful gardens are among India's finest with more than 250 varieties of roses. Visit Old Delhi's Jama Mosque and Red Fort (far left), with its attractive Palace Garden.

### Day 5 Chandigarh

Fly from Delhi to Chandigarh and transfer to hotel. After lunch travel to the acclaimed Rock Garden of Chandigarh, created by Nek Chand and included in the BBC series *Around the World in 80 Gardens*. Continue to the Zakir Hussain Rose Garden, a botanical garden with more than 50,000 rose bushes. Take a tour of Chandigarh.

### Day 6 Pinjore Gardens & Shimla

View the spectacular Pinjore Gardens; laid in seven terraces they descend into the distance and achieve an almost magical effect. Continue to the hill station settlement of Shimla and dine with an expert botanical professor, who will host an informal Q & A session.

### Day 7 Shimla

View the sights of Shimla, the hill station surrounded by pine, cedar, oak and rhododendron forests. After lunch explore the gardens of the Viceregal Lodge, an



Discover the ornate symmetry of Charbagh garden in Rajasthan

Elizabethan-style mansion sitting on the top of Observatory Hill, with well-manicured green lawns surrounded by colourful flowers.

### Day 8 Toy train

Travel on the toy train, now a World Heritage Site, from Shimla to Solan. Built by the British, the train travels on a mountainous narrow gauge line, rarely exceeding 20 mph. After lunch in Solan fly to Delhi.

### Day 9 Agra & Taj Mahal

Travel south to Agra and transfer to hotel for lunch. Visit the Ram Bagh Garden, the oldest Mughal Garden in India with abundance of waterways and fountains, before viewing the magnificent Taj Mahal and its extended gardens.

### Day 10 Fatehpur Sikri & Jaipur

Visit the huge Agra Fort, then travel to Fatehpur Sikri, a deserted red sandstone city built by the Great Mughal Emperor Akbar in the late 16th century. Continue to Jaipur.

### Day 11 Jaipur

The capital of Rajasthan awaits today. Visit the World Heritage hilltop fortress at Amber, ascending the imposing fort, before viewing the elegant Hawa Mahal, or 'Palace of Winds', and visiting the Jantar Mantar observatory. After lunch explore the monumental City Palace and then visit two exquisite gardens; Sisodia Rani Ka Bagh & Kanak Vrindavan Garden.

### Day 12 Departure

Fly to Delhi for BA flight to London.

the group will have the opportunity to savour lunch at the Lodhi Gardens in the company of one of the garden's leading botanists, and will also enjoy a unique dinner and Question & Answer session in Shimla with one of the University's foremost professors.

**DELHI, SHIMLA, AGRA AND JAIPUR**  
Join fully escorted tours to the Taj Mahal, to Jaipur's Amber Fort, to the British Raj's

summer capital Shimla, to the Red Fort in Delhi, and to the sandstone ghost town of Fatehpur Sikri. A trip on the Himalayan Queen Toy Train to Solan is also a highlight.

### LUXURIOUS HOTELS

Your accommodation is five-star standard, including the award-winning ITC Mughal Hotel in Agra, the legendary ITC Rajputana Hotel in Jaipur, and the remarkable Wildflower Hall, the former home of Lord Kitchener.

### FROM

£3,980 for 12 days

### DATES

February 13-24, 2018

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Specialist horticultural tour guide
- International and domestic flights
- Five-star hotels and breakfast throughout
- Meals as detailed in the itinerary
- Q&A/ talks with Joe Swift and local botanists
- All visits and tours as detailed in the itinerary
- Private transfers and taxes
- Tour manager throughout
- Note: single supplement costs £1175

### TO BOOK OR INQUIRE

**03300 374643** Quote: CCS0701

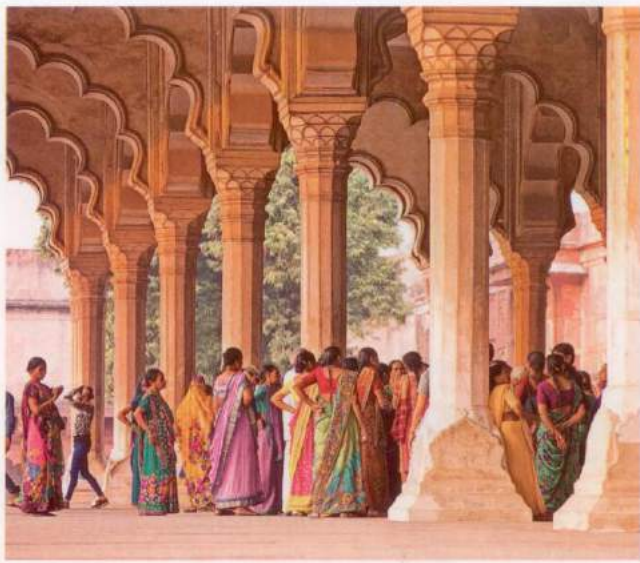
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## THE GARDENS OF INDIA WITH JOE SWIFT

### Escorted tour

12 DAYS

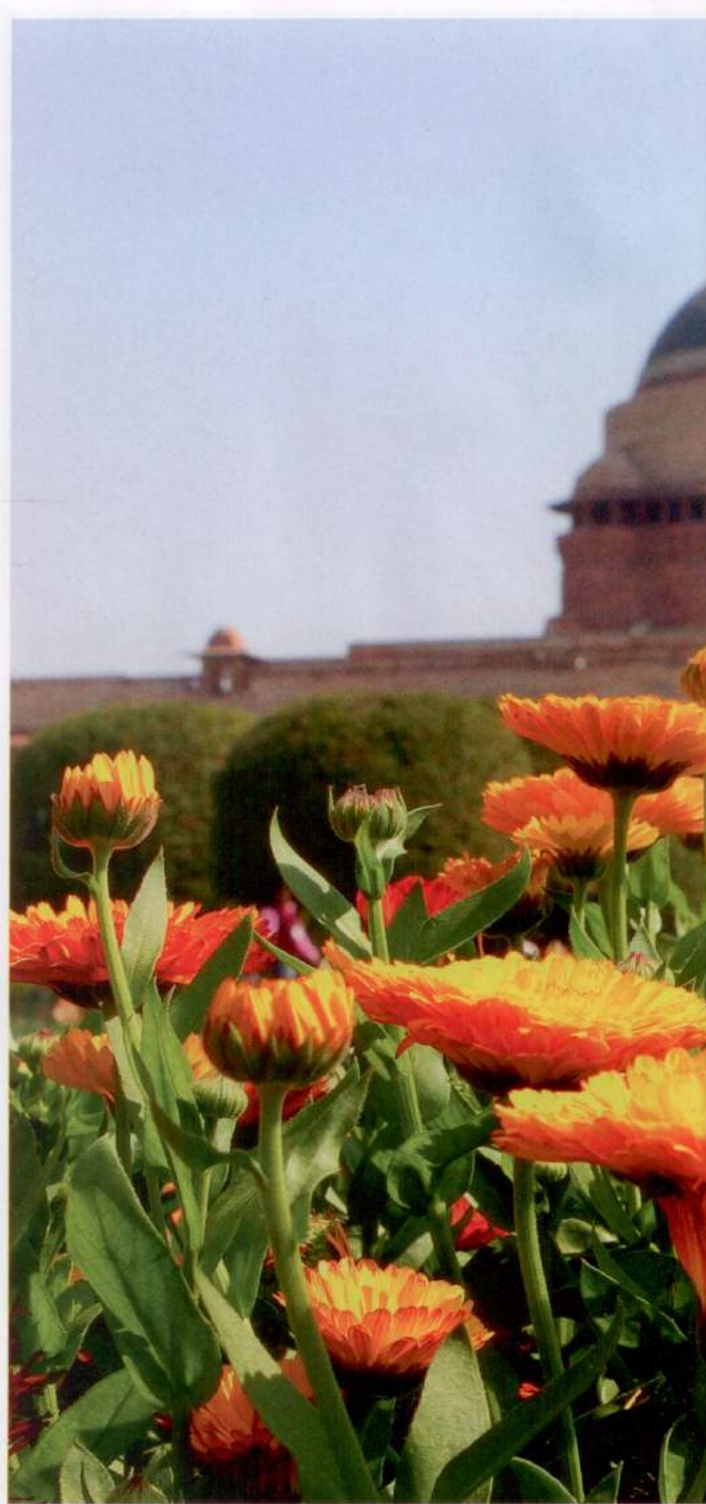
DELHI, CHANDIGARH, SHIMLA, AGRA, JAIPUR

The Taj Mahal. The Red Fort. Shimla. The architectural grandeur of Jaipur. With all the headline-grabbing sights in India, it is perhaps inevitable that the country's magnificent gardens are forgotten – or at least something of a sideshow. With this tour we hope to redress that balance. You will of course still see the main acts, including The Taj, Shimla, and the sites of Old Delhi. But we will give just as much focus to the horticultural treats that surround them, timing our visit to see the Mughal Gardens during their limited season – with the congenial presence of broadcaster Joe Swift to give the sights context.

#### JOE SWIFT

After leaving school Joe went to art college and played bass in a band. He then travelled and worked abroad, living in Australia and landscaping in Sydney & Melbourne, before

returning to the UK and studying design at The English Gardening School. Joe is a regular presenter on *Gardeners' World*, which he first started doing back in 1998.



### Highlights

#### GARDENS WITH JOE SWIFT

Excellent company, the *Gardeners' World* presenter Joe will share his knowledge of all things horticultural as you explore some of the world's finest gardens.

#### MAGNIFICENT GARDENS

Timed to coincide with the limited annual opening of Delhi's magnificent Mughal Gardens, you will also be able to visit, in the company of a

specialist horticultural tour guide, the Garden of Five Senses and Lodhi Gardens in Delhi; the Rock Garden, Zakir Hussain Rose Garden and Pinjore Gardens of Chandigarh; Shimla's Viceregal Lodge Gardens, Agra's Ram Bagh Garden, and the Sisodia Rani Ka Bagh and Kanak Vrindavan Gardens of Jaipur.

#### EXCLUSIVE EVENTS

In order to gain an insight into some of India's finest gardens,