



A MOST UNUSUAL TOUR OF

# INDIA

WITH COSMO SAMUEL BROCKWAY AND  
AMPERSAND TRAVEL

27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY TO 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018



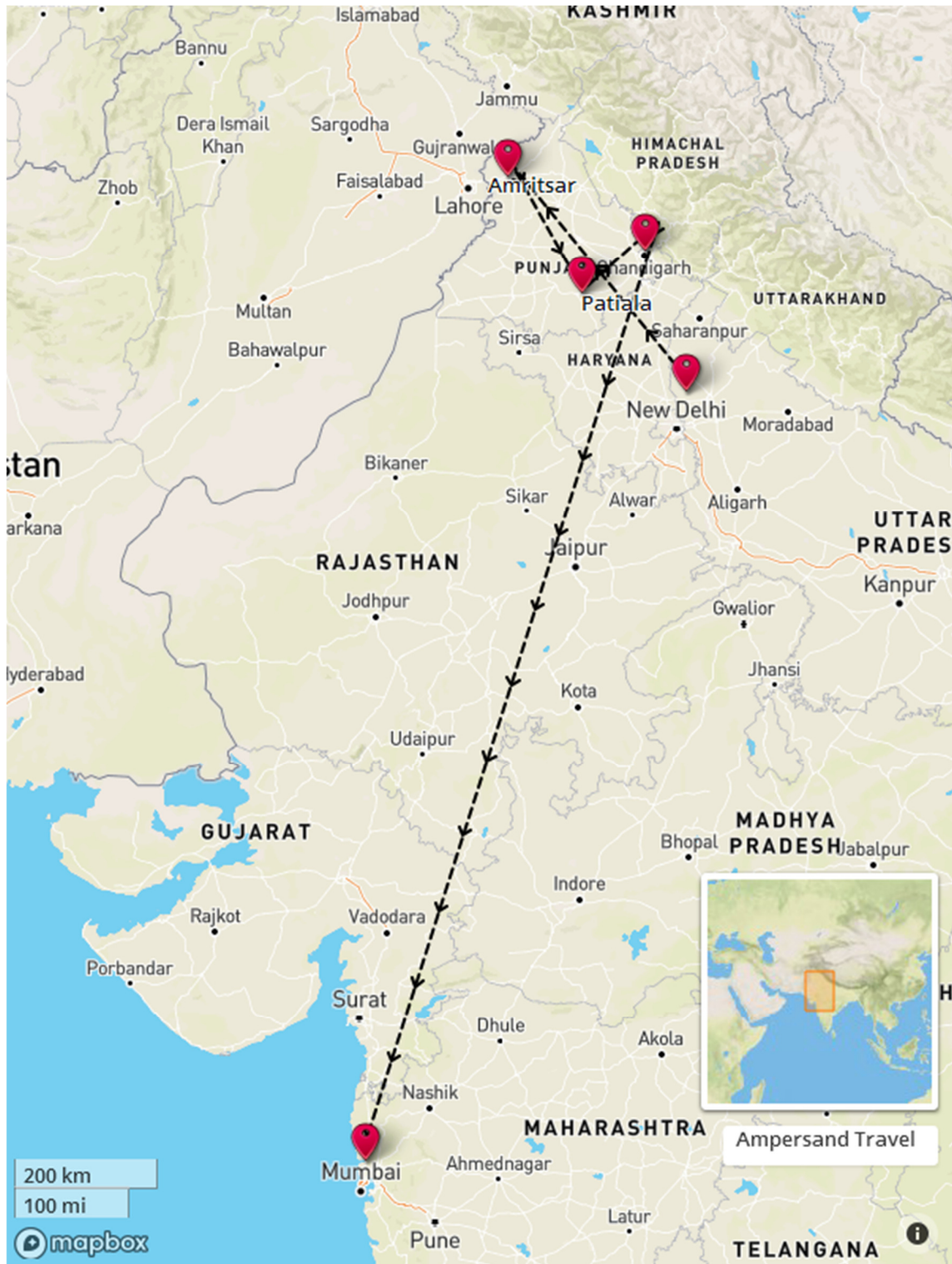
**AMPERSAND**  
TAILOR-MADE TRAVEL

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## MAP



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## ITINERARY

DATES	LOCATION	ITINERARY	HOTELS & BOARD
Tue 27 Feb	On Plane	Fly London Heathrow - Delhi 1855 0850 (BA 257) ( <i>flight fares not included in main quote &amp; mentioned as supplement</i> ).	On Plane
Wed 28 Feb	<a href="#">Amritsar</a>	Met on arrival in Delhi airport with VIP airport assistance. Fly Delhi - Amritsar 1240 1345 (9W 2791). Met on arrival at Amritsar and transfer to the hotel. Afternoon at leisure to relax and enjoy the hotel. Evening Wagah border ceremony.	<a href="#">Taj Swarna</a> Deluxe Room
Thu 01 Mar	“	Morning Lahore and Sikh culture tour with specialist historian. Afternoon visit the old city and Golden Temple. Evening visit to the Partition Museum.	“
Fri 02 Mar	“	**Holi Festival.** Morning Holi celebrations. Afternoon at leisure.	“
Sat 03 Mar	Patiala	Early morning transfer Amritsar to Patiala (4 ½ hours drive). Visit to Moti Bagh and Sheesh Mahal followed by local lunch. Late afternoon at leisure at the club.	<a href="#">Baradari Palace</a> Standard Room
Sun 04 Mar	“	Morning tour of Kapurthala. Lunch at Villa Buona Vista (HH Kapurthala). Tour of Jagatjit Palace & talk. Return to Patiala.	“
Mon 05 Mar	<a href="#">Chandigarh</a>	Drive to Chandigarh via Bahadurgarh Fort (2 hours drive). Afternoon tour of Le Corbusier's Capitol Complex and Rock Garden.	<a href="#">Vivanta by Taj Chandigarh</a> Deluxe Room
Tue 06 Mar	<a href="#">Mumbai</a>	Transfer Chandigarh airport & fly Chandigarh - Mumbai 1125 1350 G8582). Transfer hotel. Evening private yacht charter from Gateway of India. Evening drinks with the Nawab of Surat.	<a href="#">Taj Mahal Palace</a> (Superior Sea View – Tower Wing)
Wed 07 Mar	“	Morning special viewing of CSMVS Museum, & talk with curator. Afternoon at leisure. Cocktails at Bungalow 8.	“
Thu 08 Mar	“	Catamaran to Alibagh and tour. Lunch in private villa. Return back to the hotel. Evening drinks at Royal Opera House.	“
Fri 09 Mar	“	Visit to Kala Ghoda. Lunch at Trishna. Visit to Crawford Market and Chor Bazaar with architectural historian. Dinner at Soho House.	“
Sat 10 Mar	London	Transfer to the airport. Fly Mumbai - London Heathrow 1315 1825 (BA 198) ( <i>flight fares not included in main quote &amp; mentioned as supplement</i> ).	London





## A MOST UNUSUAL TOUR OF INDIA

Hop on a dazzling magic carpet ride through some of India's most enchanting experiences... 'A Most Unusual Tour of India' has been created by Ampersand Travel to offer clients a privileged and bespoke glimpse into what makes the subcontinent the most magical place on Earth. This tour of the Punjab and Mumbai will accommodate a maximum of 14 guests who will be treated to a one-off journey through some of India's hidden treasures – private lunches with Maharajas, sunset yacht trips along Mumbai's iconic coastline and behind the scenes access to private galleries and their curators – guided by writer, South Asia specialist and social maestro, Cosmo Samuel Brockway, who has lived and worked in India for two decades.

Begin in the northern Indian state of Punjab which, despite being little visited, boasts a fertile landscape of meadows and rivers, and an intriguing, lesser-known culture. It has an extraordinary history and a wealth of fascinating figures, stories and sites to explore – from extravagant palaces to the sacred Golden Temple of Amritsar. We will spend time in the capital, Amritsar, discovering the Sikh, Hindu and Muslim influences present in the city, from the bustling old quarter to the impressive Partition Museum, where we will be led through the poignant memories of countless families affected by the separation of India and Pakistan in 1947. A highlight here will be a night time visit to the Golden Temple, the holiest site for the Sikh religion, to experience the Palki ceremony.

Moving inland to the former princely states of Kapurthala and Patiala, we will have the privilege of a lunch with HH The Maharaja of Kapurthala at his private residence followed by guided visits through the astoundingly opulent palaces and forts of the area, including the rose-pink Jagajit Palace, modelled on Versailles, and the splendid monuments of Patiala. Here, we will bed down at the atmospheric 19th century Baridari palace. The modernist city of Chandigarh is our next destination with its Le Corbusier-designed Capitol Complex and the intriguing sculptures of the Rock Garden.

The cultural feast continues in the timeless city of Mumbai where we will take in the colonial architecture and visual delights of 'the city that never sleeps'. Staying at the iconic Taj Mahal Palace Hotel on the waterfront, this unique experience will include a sunset yacht tour of the famous Colaba harbour, cocktails at the home of one of the city's most influential families and a private view of their glorious lifestyle store, filled with jewels and textiles, as well as visits to other private royal homes. We will also explore the fascinating UNESCO World Heritage rock-cut temples of Elephanta Island, bustling Crawford Market and the antique-filled Chor Bazaar, or 'thieves market'. We take full advantage of Mumbai's famous food scene with meals at world-class restaurants featuring seafood fresh from the Arabian Sea as well as traditional and contemporary delicacies while meeting chefs and enjoying bespoke tasting menus.

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PACKAGE PRICE – PER PERSON (BASED ON 10 - 14 PEOPLE TRAVELLING):	PER PERSON
Package price (based on two people sharing one room) (based on current exchange rates & quote valid for 5 days)	£3,990.00
Package price (based on one person in a single room) (based on current exchange rates & quote valid for 5 days)	£4,990.00
Supplement for international flight with British Airways from London Heathrow to Delhi & Mumbai to London Heathrow in Economy/World Traveller <i>Restricted ticket &amp; current fares – subject to change at time of booking</i>	£855.00

### INCLUSIONS

- \* Accommodation based on one double or single room in the category as specified and booked
- \* All meals as specified.
- \* Domestic flights (restricted ticket) in economy class.\*\*Note: Special airfares quoted are check fares (instant purchase lower fares) and are subject to change at the time of ticketing. Once ticketed and issued cancellations penalties will apply.\*\*
- \* Private air-conditioned Tempo Traveller Mini Vans with driver for all transfers and sightseeing
- \* Private on site local English speaking guides for sightseeing as per itinerary
- \* An accompanying tour leader Mr Cosmo Samuel Brockway
- \* Entrance fees at monuments, museums and parks as per itinerary
- \* All current taxes (e.g. government, fuel, departure, airline etc.) at the time of booking
- \* Assistance by Ampersand representatives at airports in India on arrival and departure
- \* Bottled mineral water in the car for the duration of the holiday
- \* Complementary Wi-Fi in the car

### EXCLUSIONS:

- \* Indian tourist visa and processing fees.
- \* Early check-in & late check-out (most hotels have 14.00 check-in & 12.00 check-out)
- \* Any changes you may choose to make during your holiday
- \* Any expenses of personal nature such as tips and gratuities, travel insurance, drinks, laundry, phone calls, spa treatments, camera/video fees etc.
- \* Excess baggage charges
- \* Any increases in taxes (eg. government, fuel, departure, airline etc.)
- \* Any item not mentioned in the 'quote includes' section
- \* International flights – will be quoted separately as a supplement at the time of enquiry/ booking

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## COSMO SAMUEL BROCKWAY



**Cosmo Samuel Brockway** is a South Asia specialist and writer who has lived in India for 20 years and whose work has been published in *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar* UK and *The Independent*. Notoriously charming and erudite, his friends include an assortment of the most interesting and talented movers and shakers in India. He has previously worked for Quintessentially in both London and New York, specialising in arts and culture, and is now content editor and South Asia specialist for Ampersand Travel alongside co-writing the coffee table book *Glorious Hotels of India* to be published next year.

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## CITY DESCRIPTIONS

### Amritsar



Amritsar is the most sacred city for world's many million Sikhs. The name itself, means "pool of nectar" and the most striking image is the enormous pool, its waters are said to bring relief from illness to those who bathe in them (with complete faith and devotion) Adorning its center is the magnificent Harmandir Sahib. The Golden Temple in Amritsar, high in the Punjab near the border with Pakistan, is the most important site in the world for Sikhs. A two-storey marble structure with an imposing dome of pure gold, reflected in a surrounding sacred pool, it is a stunning sight. Founded in 1577 by Ram Das, it is always busy with thousands of pilgrims and tourists. Amritsar is an easy drive from Wagah, a village divided in two at Partition, where the daily closure of the border takes place with great pomp and ceremony. Indian border guards in khaki and Pakistani border guards in dark green march, bark orders and lower their respective national flags in a symbolic stand-off, watched by orderly crowds of thousands waving national flags. There is much partisan cheering in the grandstands as the gates clang shut for the night, to be formally opened again the next day.

### Patiala



Punjab's best-kept secret, Patiala was once the capital of an independent Sikh state, ruled by an extravagant family of maharajas. As the Mughal empire declined, the rulers of Patiala were in favour with the British and filled their city with lavish palaces. The grand palaces and monuments are stunning and the old city, ringed by 10 historic gates, is very atmospheric. The hotel Baradari Palace may be one of the more modest Palaces of Patiala, but it certainly scores high on passion and dedication that brought it back from obscurity. The Baradari Palace is a white, colonnaded building, centred on a rectangular Sikh-Mughal-style, twelve door pavilion or baradari which gave its name to a splendid garden commissioned by the then ruler Maharaja Rajinder Singh.

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## Chandigarh



Chandigarh, the capital of the states of the Punjab and Haryana is set at the foothills of the Himalayas. Built in the 1950s, from a plan designed by French architect Le Corbusier, it holds the distinction of being India's first and only planned city. It has grown to be the commercial hub of North India and is fast emerging as an ITES centre. The young-at-heart, fast-growing and progressive city is striking due to its urban planning - impressive buildings, well-organised sectors and broad tree-lined avenues.

## Mumbai



Mumbai has always had style. A port city overlooking the Arabian Sea, it is famous for its mega-population (16 million people crammed onto a curving promontory), its glittering Bollywood film industry, its dhobiwallahs or tiffin carriers and the extremes of wealth and poverty. It is in fact an island divided from the mainland by a narrow creek and, its popularity as a city soared with the opening of the Suez Canal. Fashionable Mumbai swirls around Colaba, to the south of the city, but the northern suburbs are becoming popular too. Bars,

restaurants, shops, movies, nightclubs, parties and festivals are everywhere: this really is a city that never sleeps. Sights include the Taj Mahal Hotel - an early 20th-century gem that was the first luxury hotel to allow Indians to enter, the Chhatrapati Shivaji (formerly Victoria) Terminus, one of the world's most spectacular railway stations, the Gateway of India, Elephanta Island, Crawford Market and Chor Bazaar. Marine Drive makes an ideal evening escape, and you will be joined by hundreds of other people strolling by the sea.

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## WHY BOOK WITH AMPERSAND?

At Ampersand we believe that “luxury is in the experience”. We love travelling in style but are not afraid to step off the usual circuit in order to experience something more rewarding. We specialise in exclusive tailor-made holidays that are perfect for honeymoons, cultural tours, family trips, wildlife adventures, sabbaticals and multi-generational holidays.

Over the last 10 years we have established ourselves as a leader in luxury holidays to the Indian Subcontinent, Far East, Southeast Asia, the British Isles and Southern Africa. In keeping with our desire to share the places we know and love best, we are thrilled to add the UK to our portfolio of destinations.

Our clients are mostly private individuals who recognise that time is their most precious asset and want to entrust it to experts with a well proven track record. This smoothes out the planning process and ensures that they have the most rewarding and memorable experience possible. We also look after some of the world’s most acclaimed museums and organisations who rely on us to arrange once-in-a-lifetime group tours for their most important patrons.

**Local knowledge & contacts:** We are a team of knowledgeable and well-connected individuals who have lived and /or travelled extensively in the destinations we offer.

**First-hand experience:** We personally visit all the hotels and locations we recommend and can provide you with first-hand information and opinions on them.

**Easy to reach:** We personally answer all phone calls (during office working hours). You will never be answered by a machine or be frustrated by multiple options. All our clients also receive our personal mobile numbers which they are welcome to use outside working hours.

**Financial protection:** Ampersand Travel is ATOL bonded meaning that the money spent on your holiday is protected.

**Personal service:** You will be looked after by one consultant from your initial enquiry until your safe return home from holiday.

**Reliability:** 80% of our business is from repeat clients and friends they have recommended to us.

**Small by choice:** We have deliberately chosen to remain small so that we can look after our clients to the best of our ability and enjoy the process as we go along.

**Totally independent:** We only sell places we love. Unless we would be happy to stay there we will not sell it – it’s as simple as that.

**Owner run:** Ampersand is owner run and, interestingly, most of our carefully selected ground handlers are too. We feel that this creates a far more passionate and personal service and a greater sense of accountability, which are key to providing the best possible service.

**We love travel:** This will become obvious as soon as you contact us!

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