

# Exuberant India

**Feb 12 - 25, 2009**

I am delighted to invite you to go on a trip of a lifetime with me. This culinary adventure to India takes us through the north and the south and will open your minds and palates to the diversity of the legendary cuisine of this ancient land. Along the way we will tour the cultural sites and learn from professional chefs and from renowned home cooks too, all the while enjoying the comforts of some of the world's best hotels.

You will feast on the food of the Moghuls and the outstanding grilled foods of the North West Frontier Province (as it was called in the days of the British, and which is now a part of Pakistan) at the world famous Bukhara restaurant. And in the south we will feast on the freshest seafood from the ocean, seafood that was swimming just a few hours earlier, both on the east and west coasts. I promise you a mind-blowing, never to be forgotten culinary experience.

Am I biased? Of course! Am I excited to have this opportunity to accompany some of the most discriminating professionals in the country on this journey? A resounding yes! I am thrilled to have this opportunity to show off the country of my birth – an ancient country which is at the same time very 21st century too. We will revel in the culture, the color and the cuisine of India and come away with unforgettable memories of a lifetime.

An unforgettable journey with  
Suneeta Vaswani

# Exuberant India

An unforgettable journey with Suneeta Vaswani

## About Suneeta:



Mumbai-born Suneeta Vaswani has lived in Houston since 1977 and has been teaching Indian cooking classes for almost as long at her home-based cooking school and for the last 15 years as a traveling instructor. She teaches throughout the US and internationally as well.

An authoritative speaker on Indian cuisine, and a long-time member of the International Association of Culinary Professionals she is an active member and past president of Houston Culinary Guild.

When not busy with writing and teaching commitments Suneeta takes highly customized culinary tours to India. She is the author of two cookbooks, Easy Indian Cooking, published in 2004 and the recently released Complete Book of Indian Cooking, 350 recipes from the regions of India.

## Land Tour Cost:

**USD \$7,975 per person sharing**

Single Room Supplement US\$ 2,835

## Intra India Airfare:

**USD \$839 per person**

JAI / BOM / COK / MAA

\* subject to applicable air taxes

## INCLUSIONS

Accommodation on Twin Sharing Basis at hotels mentioned in the itinerary • Meals as specified in the itinerary including demos as mentioned • Transfers and sightseeing by AC Coach exactly as per the itinerary • Local English Speaking guides for sightseeing as per the itinerary • Entrance fee to the monuments as mentioned in the itinerary • Porterage • Elephant ride at Amber Fort • Sunset visit to the Taj Mahal • Game Viewing by boat in Periyar • Backwater Cruise.

## EXCLUSIONS

Any meals except mentioned in the itinerary • Any beverages with the special meals • Airfare International / Domestic (supplement advised separately) • Items of personal nature such as telephone calls, laundry, beverages, gratuities to guides and drivers (which are discretionary in nature) • Visa fees and processing charges • Camera and Video permits • Inoculations and health requirements and items not listed above.

## ITINERARY

### Feb 12 Thu: Arrive Delhi

Arrive tonight in India's bustling capital city of Delhi, where you are greeted with a traditional Indian welcome and escorted to the TAJ PALACE HOTEL. (Room would be available from 1200N, early check-in would be subject to availability).

### Feb 13 Fri: Delhi Sightseeing

Sightsee in Old Delhi in the morning and then savor the delicacies of Southern India at the Royal Dakshin restaurant for lunch. After lunch, sightseeing of New Delhi and then dine at Restaurant Bukhara, rated one of the best Asian restaurants in the world. (BLD)

### Dinner in Bukhara including the Demo

Bukhara is widely touted as the best place for Mughal and North-West Frontier specialties in Delhi. The food is delicious and everything its reputation suggests - one particularly recommended dish is the kastoori kebab, while the delicious dhal makes a splendid accompaniment to any meal. Diners sit on benches, at elegant low tables. The restaurant is crowded but the service remains attentive.

World famous for its North-West Frontier cuisine, Bukhara brings alive the rustic flavors of North-West Frontier cuisine traditionally prepared in a clay oven (tandoor). The ambiance is decidedly rugged and you can even watch your meal being prepared through the open display kitchen, visual treat not to be missed. Rated amongst the top 15 restaurants in the world and the finest Indian restaurant by "Restaurants" magazine.

### Feb 14 Sat: Delhi/ Agra

Drive to Agra this morning, enroute visit Sikandara. On your arrival in Agra check in at your hotel. Late in the afternoon visit the Taj Mahal for a sunset view. Evening demo of Mughlai cuisine. TAJ VIEW. Carry packed lunch from the hotel. (BLD)

### Dinner in Taj View Agra Including Demo

### Feb 15 Sun: Agra/ Jaipur

Early this morning visit Taj Mahal again for a sunrise visit. After breakfast drive to Jaipur, enroute visit Fatehpur Sikri. Lunch at Laxmi Villas. HOTEL RAMBAGH PALACE (BLD)

### Thali Dinner at Rambagh Palace

The Suvarna Mahal with its exceptionally grand ambience; liveried waiters, gold plated tableware, exquisite china and crystal, grand high ceiling, crystal chandeliers and alabaster lamps, original Florentine ceiling paintings and mirrors - is the signature restaurant of the Rambagh Palace. Our culinary masters have meticulously researched the cuisines of the Royal houses of India. On offer are original menus from the royal houses of Jaipur, Mewar, Awadh, Hyderabad, Vijayanagar, Kashmir, Patiala to name a few. Complimented with an extensive international Palace wine cellar, live classical music and unobtrusively- pampering intuitive service, the Suvarna Mahal is the epitome of culinary celebration in Royal India.

**Feb 16 Mon: Amber Fort Excursion & Jaipur Sightseeing**

Today, you will ride royally atop elegantly draped and painted elephants up to the mountain fortress of Amber. Lunch at Spice restaurant After visiting the "Palace of Winds," you will be taken to the Rajasthani village of Chowki Dhani where you will savor typical Rajasthani dishes. (BLD)

**Chowki Dhani**

It is 22 km South of Jaipur on the Tonk Road. Well-heeled Jaipuris flock in droves to this famous out-of-town restaurant. The dinner covers a traditional thali and folk dance, acrobats, musicians and puppetry. Well worth the long drive for the atmosphere.

**Feb 17 Tue: Jaipur / Mumbai / Cochin / Periyar**

Fly to Cochin via Mumbai. From Cochin you will drive to Periyar. Lush forests and spice plantations surround your hotel. In the evening, enjoy a live cooking demonstration using fresh spices from the surrounding forests. TAJ GARDEN RETREAT. (BD)

**Feb 18 Wed: Periyar**

In the morning, enjoy a boat trip on Lake Periyar to view bird life and possibly wild elephants. After breakfast, the hotel staff introduces you to the various spices that flourish in the region. The hotel's chef takes over in the afternoon with a hands-on lesson in cooking with spices. In the evening visit the spice plantations. (BLD)

**Feb 19 Thu: Periyar / Kumarakom**

After breakfast, head towards Kumarakom experiencing the rich culture and active lifestyle that has evolved over the centuries in and around the backwaters and waterways that thread this region. In the evening, enjoy a sunset cruise on the lake. TAJ GARDEN RETREAT. (BLD)

**Feb 20 Fri: Kumarakom**

This morning, a short boat cruise will take you to Philip Kutty's Farm. You will learn the intricacies of Kerala seafood dishes. (BLD)

**Lunch at Farm House Kutty Including Demo**

Special cooking demo specially (only Kerala dishes) in a private house with a well-known cook.

**Feb 21 Sat: Kumarakom - Backwater Cruise**

After breakfast, embark on the houseboats and enjoy your boat cruise through the series of canals and lagoons that snake their way through several tiny villages and tropical vegetation. Not only do the backwaters of Kerala link the state together, they are

an integral element in maintaining ecological balance and creating harmony with nature. OVERNIGHT HOUSEBOATS. (BLD)

**Feb 22 Sun: Alleppey / Cochin**

After breakfast, disembark at Alleppey and drive to Cochin. In the evening, witness the famous classical dance performance of "Kathakalli." HOTEL TAJ MALABAR (BLD)

**Lunch at (Cochin) Ms. Nimmy Paul's Home Including Demo**

Nimmy Paul is a well-known authority on the food of the region. She has taught cooking classes for more than 2 decades and is the author of Kitchens of Kerala. Her specialty is the traditional cuisine of the Syrian Christians of Kerala.

**Dinner at Casino Hotel in Fort Cochin Restaurant Including Demo****Feb 23 Mon: Cochin Sightseeing**

Visit the Portuguese Church, the Jewish Synagogue, and the famed Mattancherry Palace. Afternoon at leisure. (BLD)

**Lunch in Taj Malabar (The Rice Boat) including Demo****Dinner in Brunton Boat Yard (The Terrace) Including Demo**

Relaxation, in fact, may well be a necessity after a meal at The Brunton Boatyard Hotel.

**Feb 24 Tue: Cochin / Chennai**

After breakfast, fly to Chennai, formerly known as Madras. Your tour of Chennai takes you to the Victoria Art Gallery, the Bronze Gallery and the Chennai Museum. TAJ CONNEMERA. (BLD)

**Dinner in Taj Connemara (Rain Tree) Including Demo**

Raintree is an open air garden restaurant which operates only for dinner, timings - 7:30 pm to 11 pm serving authentic Chettinad Cuisine (South Indian Cuisine). Both the demo and the dinner will be at Raintree itself.

**Feb 25 Wed: Kanchipuram Excursion / Depart Chennai**

Today, enjoy an excursion to Kanchipuram, one of the seven sacred cities of India. Visit three revered temples and then return to Chennai to learn how to prepare Chettinad cuisine. Say farewell to unforgettable India as you board your international flight home. (BLD) Rooms would be available till 1200N, late checkout would be subject to availability.

**Lunch at Fisherman's Cove (Seagull) Including Demo**

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**Insurance:** We strongly recommend Travel protection insurance for your trip. Insurance covers pre-existing conditions also "if" Premium is paid along with the deposit.

**Airfares / Taxes:** Airfares / Taxes are based on current tariffs and are subject to change without notice.

**Tour Reservations:** SITA requires a Non Refundable deposit of \$500 per person by June 15, 2008 in order to initiate the reservations. Final payment due 90 days prior to departure.

**Visa Fees and Processing:** USA Passport holders require a visa for India. Applications will be sent at the time of booking.

**Tour Documents:** Invoice and personal information forms will be sent on receipt of deposit. Final tour documents including day-by-day itinerary, hotel listing, air tickets & vouchers are sent between 45-30 days prior to departure.

**Cancellation Policy:** Land package - A 10% cancellation fee applies to cancellations received between 60 to 45 days prior to departure. 25% - between 44 to 31 days. 50%- for cancellations received 30 to 15 days. No refunds for cancellations received 14 days or less prior to departure. For other terms and conditions, please refer to SITA's INDIA brochure. Airfares are fully refundable up to 31 days prior to departure. 25% cancellation penalty applies thereafter.

**Tour Payments:** SITA accepts tour payments by Agency check and /or by Visa, Master & American Express credit cards. Signed statement on SITA form required by each client charging on credit cards. Copy of form will be supplied by SITA.

### TOUR PRICES QUOTED IN THIS BROCHURE INCLUDE:

**Hotel:** Deluxe, first class or best available hotels will be used. Rooms will have private bath or shower. All taxes and service charges are included. Rates are based on two persons sharing a twin-bedded room. Members occupying single rooms, either by choice or circumstances, will pay the single room supplement. In some areas single rooms are not always available. Therefore the single supplement quoted excludes single room accommodations in these areas. Usually at Palace Hotels or Harbor View rooms can be arranged at an additional expense. The right is reserved to substitute hotels, when necessary.

**Meals:** Breakfast is included. Special theme dinners and entertainment are included as shown in the itinerary.

**Sightseeing and Land Travel:** The following services are included in your tour price: transportation between the airports and hotels, sightseeing with English speaking guides as mentioned in the itinerary and all entrance fees to places visited. Sightseeing will be by motor coach (air-conditioned where necessary and available), private car and other mode of transportation as determined by the nature of terrain and as outlined in the itinerary. Transfers are not included when arriving or departing other than by tour flights.

**Air Baggage Regulations:** Normal baggage allowance on all international flights from USA is 2 checked-in pieces per person plus one handbag. Dimensions of each bag are not to exceed 62 inches or 168 cm (length+width+height). Weight not to exceed 66 lbs per piece. For intra-India flight the allowance is 44 lbs per person plus one hand baggage. Baggage and personal effects are at the owners risk throughout the tour. We strongly recommend you purchase baggage insurance.

**Gratuities:** Gratuities to hotel staff and guides for normal on-tour services are included in the tour cost.

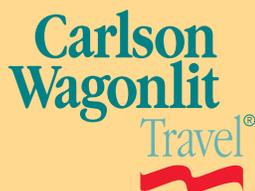
**Special Entertainment:** Local entertainment and special parties are included as shown in the itinerary.

### NOT INCLUDED IN THE QUOTED TOUR PRICE:

Airport transportation, passport, health certificate, Visa, airport and port taxes, all items of a personal nature including laundry, wine, liquor; communication charges, room service; tips for room service and transport to restaurants and back is not included; excess baggage charges, travel, and health and accident insurances, private non-group transfers and any item not specifically listed as included. sightseeing or meals not included in the itinerary like meals in Singapore.

**Airline Clause:** Airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not aboard the aircraft. The passenger ticket in use by the airline, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between airline and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passenger. These tours may be sold in conjunction with the services of IATA or ARC airlines. All rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates currently in effect and are subject to change without notice.

**Responsibility:** Carlson Wagonlit Travel/Travel Express acts only in the capacity of agents for the tour operators, hotels, airlines, bus companies, railroads, ship lines, or owners or contractors providing accommodations, transportation, or other services, and all coupons, exchange order, receipts, contracts and tickets issued by Carlson Wagonlit Travel/Travel Express and/or SITA WORLD TOURS of Encino, California are issued subject to any and all tariffs, terms and conditions under which any accommodations, transportation or any other services whatsoever are provided by such hotels, airlines, bus companies, railroads, ship lines, tour operators, or owners or contractors by their person in employ. By the acceptance of tour membership and/or such coupons, exchange orders, receipts, contracts and tickets, the tour member agrees to the foregoing and also agrees that neither Carlson Wagonlit Travel/Travel Express and SITA nor any of their affiliates or subsidiaries shall be or become liable or responsible for any loss, injury or damage to person, property or otherwise in connection with any accommodations, transportation, or other services, resulting directly or indirectly from any acts of god, dangers incident to the sea, fire, breakdown in machinery and equipment, or wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, pilferage, epidemics, quarantines, medical or custom regulation, defaults, delays or cancellation of or change in itinerary of schedules, or from any causes beyond Carlson Wagonlit Travel/Travel Express or SITA's control, or for any loss or damage resulting from insufficient or improperly issued passports, Visas or other documents, and that neither Carlson Wagonlit Travel/Travel Express and SITA nor any of its affiliates or subsidiaries shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of any foregoing causes. Carlson Wagonlit Travel/Travel Express reserves the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a tour passenger should such person's health, mental condition, physical infirmity or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights, welfare or enjoyment of other tour passengers. A refund of unused land tour services is the limit of SITA's liability. The right is reserved to substitute hotels, and alter the itinerary or reverse the places to be visited. The right is reserved to cancel the tour prior to departure. If any tour must be withdrawn prior to the passengers' joining the tour Carlson Wagonlit Travel/Travel Express and SITA's liability is limited to a refund of monies received by Carlson Travel Express/Travel Express. Further, Carlson Wagonlit Travel/Travel Express is not responsible nor liable for defaults of those not directly under the control of Carlson Wagonlit Travel/Travel Express. Tour members are held responsible for being in sufficient good health to undertake the tour. The payment for reservation on a tour shall constitute consent to all provisions in the Condition List as published herein.



**Deepi Mehta**  
**Carlson Wagonlit Travel**

820 Gessner, Suite 180 Houston, Texas 77024  
(713) 468-7000 - Phone (713) 468-2825 - FAX  
Email: [deepi@cwt-travelexpress.com](mailto:deepi@cwt-travelexpress.com)

[www.cwt-travelexpress.com](http://www.cwt-travelexpress.com) • [www.honeymoonprofessionals.com](http://www.honeymoonprofessionals.com)

