



INDIA WITH PAUL SALTZMAN

A Fusion of Colour, Music & Soul

(October 18 – November 03, 2015)

Long ago, I realized that if I could only visit one country during the rest of my life it would be—India.

It is many, many cultures—an amazing fusion of modern and ancient, of adventures and discoveries. I've been there more than 50 times, and each time is a new exploration. It's the most colourful country of the many I've visited. It's a cornucopia of remarkable people and places, of music and soul.

We will be a small intimate group, experiencing the great fusion of east and west that is India. Along with sightseeing; small, private music recitals; wandering and shopping, we'll occasionally talk about life as we sip a cool drink and watch some of the most gorgeous sunsets in the world. Above all, we'll have great fun together.

This upcoming journey is very special. My first trip to India, in 1968, was life changing. It was truly a healing journey that still beautifully reverberates in my heart—bringing so much joy, creativity and soul into my life.

So it is with great respect, and pleasure, that I welcome you to join me on this wonderful and exciting journey...

Paul Saltzman

PS: Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at:
paul@sfl-films.com



Paul Saltzman is a two-time Emmy Award winning film and television producer-director with over 300 productions to his credit. The documentary features, *Prom Night in Mississippi* and *The Last White Knight—Is Reconciliation Possible?* Both are his most recent movies and featured Morgan Freeman. Paul is also a renowned author and photographer.

In 1968 he learned meditation at the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's ashram in Rishikesh, India. There, he spent time with and photographed the Beatles. His photos have been judged, "some of the best intimate shots" ever taken of John, Paul, George and Ringo, and have been seen in galleries worldwide.

In 2000, Paul released a book of his photographs, *The Beatles in Rishikesh*, with Penguin-Putnam; in 2006 he self-published the acclaimed Deluxe Limited Edition box set, *The Beatles in India*.

Day 01: October 18, 2015, Sunday: Arrive Trivandrum

Namaste! We are welcomed the traditional Indian way with palms held together. After immigration and custom formalities, we are met and driven to Kovalam. After checking into our hotel, and before dinner, Paul Saltzman will welcome you on this unique journey at the Neera Bar outdoor patio. As an added treat, one lucky person will win a draw for Paul's Deluxe Limited Edition box set (value \$875).

Overnight: **Vivanta By Taj Kovalam (2 Nights)**

(D)

Activities:

1. Welcome drink with Paul.

Day 02: October 19, 2015, Monday: Kovalam

Morning Yoga session, if you wish to join us. The day is free to relax on the beach, explore the local shops and surroundings, or visit nearby Trivandrum, Kerala's capital. Those who want to go for Ayurveda can book this at the Taj Spa, which is one of the best Spa's in the south. Evening we join Paul for his slide show and talk: 'Fusion of Music & Soul: Why the Beatles Came to India' followed by conversation. **(B)**

Activities:

1. Morning Yoga session (optional).
2. 'Fusion of Music & Soul: Why the Beatles Came to India.' Slide show and talk.

Day 03: October 20, 2015, Tuesday: Trivandrum/Alleppey (Drive)

Scenic coastal drive to Alleppey where we board traditional rice boats—Ketuvalam—converted to house boats, and begin our magical journey through Kerala's picturesque inland waterways, relaxing in the tranquility of the backwaters and lakes, experiencing the way of life and activity of the locals. A special treat is the authentic and exquisite Kerala cuisine cooked on-board. Boats have one or two bedrooms.

Overnight: **House Boat (1 night)**

(B, L, D)

Activities: 1. Night Houseboat on Full Board Basis.

Day 04: October 21, 2015, Wednesday: Alleppey/Cochin (Drive) Cochin/Mumbai (Flight)

After breakfast, we disembark from our houseboats and drive to Cochin Airport for our flight to the magical city of Mumbai, where we are transferred to our hotel Taj Lands End. Evening we enjoy a scrumptious dinner in a private dining room at our hotel, prepared for us by the executive chef.

Overnight: **Taj Lands End (2 Nights)**

(B, D)

Activities/Sites Visited:

1. Visit Historical Sites of Mumbai.
2. Evening Dinner at Taj Lands End. (Pre Set Menu Dinner)

Day 05: October 22, 2015, Thursday: Mumbai

Arrangements are in the works for a meeting with Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, considered to be the foremost bansuri flute player of his generation. He may give us an informal recital. Pandit Chaurasia toured and recorded with George Harrison on 'The Inner Light' and George's 'Dark Horse Tour'. This will be followed by a guided city tour of Mumbai including the famous *Chor Bazaar* (Thieves Market) and the Victoria Terminus, recently declared a World Heritage Site. Return to the hotel late afternoon. Evening, subject to availability, we meet Suresh Bhojwani over dinner at the iconic Taj Mahal Palace & Tower. Suresh played with George Harrison in 1994 in Goa. **(B)**



Activities/Sites Visited:

1. Meeting with Pandit Hariprasad (subject to availability).
2. Guided City Tour including visits to Chor Bazaar & Victoria Terminus (World Heritage Site).
3. Meeting with Suresh Bhojwani followed by Dinner at Iconic Taj Mahal Palace & Towers (subject to availability).

Day 06: October 23, 2015, Friday: Mumbai/Udaipur (Flight)

A short flight takes us into Rajasthan, to the city of Udaipur, named as the world's 7th best city in 2007. We travel by bus and boat to the Lake Palace Hotel—Paul Saltzman's "favourite hotel in the world." Later in the evening we enjoy dinner on the Royal Barge. 'Gangaur' is an antique royal barge of the House of Mewar. Its regal décor and vibrant splendor were featured in the James Bond film Octopussy and guests continue to enjoy its magnificence. Six rowers in traditional attire steer us around the mystical Lake Pichola while we unwind with cocktails and enjoy barbequed snacks and hors d'oeuvres served by our own personal butlers. The highlight of the evening is a floating buffet that attaches to our barge. Our chefs have created for you the finest Indian feast. Gentle, live music is on board.

Overnight: **Hotel Taj Lake Palace (2 Nights)**

(B, D)

Activities/Sites Visited:

1. Dinner on the Royal Barge.

Day 07: October 24, 2015, Saturday: Udaipur

Today we tour Udaipur, visiting the City Palace followed by a visit to the world famous Crystal Gallery in the Fateh Prakash Palace. It has been hailed as the single largest private collection of crystal anywhere in the world. It was in 1877 that the Maharaja Sajjan Singh custom ordered this collection from the F&C Osler Co. in Birmingham. It includes a bewildering number of objects d'art, dinner sets, perfume bottles, decanters, glasses, washing bowls and even furniture, including the only crystal bed in the world. In the afternoon we visit Sajjangarh Fort, the 'Monsoon Palace', high above Udaipur, affording a marvelous, panoramic view of the area. En route to our hotel we can visit an excellent gallery/fine crafts emporium. **(B)**

Activities/Sites Visited:

1. City Tour of Udaipur visiting City palace, Crystal Gallery, Saheliyon Ki Bari.
2. Visit Sajjangarh (Monsoon Palace) in afternoon.

Day 08: October 25, 2015, Sunday: Udaipur/Jaipur (Drive)

Breakfast at the hotel. We drive to Jaipur, experiencing a taste of rural India. During the drive we'll see a 23-minute video on a Jaipur family of Master Meenakari craftspeople who create exquisite gold and silver enamel jewelry, chess sets and more. The film, made by Paul Saltzman in 1975, follows Gopal Deen Dayal, age 11, as the craft is passed to him and his brothers by their father. We'll visit them the next day in their home/workshop. Upon arrival at Jaipur we check in at the hotel.

Overnight: **Jai Mahal Palace (2 Nights)**

(B)



Day 09: October 26, 2015, Monday: Jaipur

This morning we are treated like the royalty of yesteryear with an elephant ride to Amber Fort, situated on top of a hill rendering a majestic panoramic view of the city. Amber was the capital of Rajasthan before Jaipur. The Palace is laid out on different levels on the hillside and surrounded by a fortress. A shopper's paradise, Jaipur is noted for its gems, puppets and artisans, skilled in brass inlay, enamel and lacquer work and pottery. Most of the buildings in the old city are made of pink sandstone and one of the most beautiful is the Hawa Mahal, the Palace of Winds, from where the ladies of the royal harem would watch the city from behind the intricately carved facade. In the afternoon, we'll visit Gopal's home and workshop in the old bazaar area of Jaipur. Evening is dinner at the Spice Court, where we are entertained with a Rajasthani puppet show. Shopping at the bazaar is an option.

(B, D)

Activities/Sites Visited:

1. Guided tour of Amber Fort.
2. City Palace.
3. Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds).

4. Gopal and family home/workshop.
5. Dinner at Spice Court.

Day 10: October 27, 2015, Tuesday: Jaipur/Fatehpur Sikri/Agra (Drive)

After an early breakfast we head out for a lovely countryside drive to Agra. En-route we visit Fatehpur Sikri, the beautiful capital built in 1640 by the Mughal King, Akbar the Great. A superb example of Mughal architecture, it stands perfectly preserved in the desert. We tour the Palace-Fort and also visit the artistically designed mausoleum of Salim Chisty before continuing to Agra. On arrival in Agra, we check in to our hotel. Later we visit the Agra Fort, where Shah Jehan, in the later years of his life, was imprisoned by his son. We end our tour with a visit to several local shops and witness the complex art of inlaying precious and semiprecious stones in the world famous marbles from the mines of Makrana. Later in the evening we have a gala dinner at the Peshwari Restaurant.

Overnight: Taj Gateway Hotel (1 Night)

(B, D)

Activities/Sites Visited:

1. Guided tour of Fatehpur Sikri—World Heritage Site.
2. Guided tour of Agra Fort—World Heritage Site.
3. Gala Dinner at Peshwari Restaurant at the ITC Mughal Hotel.

Day 11: October 28, 2015, Wednesday: Agra/New Delhi (Drive)

We begin our day with a sunrise visit to the most well known of the ‘Seven Modern Wonders of the World’, the Taj Mahal. It is a unique and exquisite experience to stand in front of the huge wooden Mughal doors as they are swung open and be the first to view the Taj Mahal in the soft morning light, with the grounds empty. Built by Shah Jehan as a mausoleum for his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, visiting the Taj is beyond any photographs or film one can view. While there, Paul will share a few of his favourite stories of the Taj and of ancient India. After breakfast, we drive to New Delhi. On arrival, we visit the famous Akshardham Temple complex, an amazing world of Indian Hindu culture, ornate with 20,000 statues, floral motifs, arches and exquisitely carved pillars. Built on the banks of the River Yamuna, over a sprawling 100 acres of lush manicured lawns adorned with water fountains and carved

pavilions, it cost 2 billion dollars and took 5 years to construct. In the evening we join Paul for his slide show and talk: ‘The Inner Journey. Fusion of East and West’ followed by conversation.

Overnight: The Taj Mahal Hotel Deluxe Rooms (2 Nights)

(B)

Activities/Sites Visited:

1. Guided sunrise visit to Taj Mahal—World Heritage Site.
2. Drive to Delhi.
3. Guided tour of Akshardham Complex.
4. ‘The Inner Journey. Fusion of East and West.’ Slide show and talk.



Day 12: October 29, 2015, Thursday: Delhi

Today, we explore wonderful sights and experiences of New Delhi and Old Delhi. The British Raj built New Delhi as their capital, while Old Delhi is a reflection of both its Mughal past and the 7 city kingdoms of earlier times. We could easily spend a month exploring exotic corners of both cities and some of the highlights for today include:

Jama Masjid, in Old Delhi, is the second largest mosque in Asia and the most important in India. A center of Muslim importance, it was built in 1656 by Shah Jehan, builder of the Taj Mahal. The best over-views of Old Delhi are to be seen by climbing the narrow steps to the top observation level of one of its two towering minarets.

We take bicycle rickshaws through the gullies, or narrow pathways, of Old Delhi which hold the most wonderful specialty markets: spices, gold and silver, wedding saris, antiques and much more. After lunch we visit Birla House, the former residence of Mahatma Gandhi, where he spent his later months and where he was assassinated on January 30, 1948. It's a museum and memorial to the man Nelson Mandela credits as his inspiration to non-violence.

Next we'll go with Paul to his favourite place to buy arts, crafts and antiques that he calls "Sharma's Antique Farm." Just south of New Delhi, it's on a farm with acres of indoor and outdoor items of beauty, and is a well-frequented wholesale supplier to upscale western shops. **(B)**

Activities/Sites Visited:

1. Birla House—Residence of Mahatma Gandhi.
2. Old Delhi bazaars.
3. Jama Masjid Mosque.
4. Sharma's Antique Farm.

Day 13: October 30, 2015, Friday: Delhi/Haridwar (Train) Haridwar/Rishikesh (Drive)

India has the world's largest train network and it is said that on any given day there are some 25 million people on the trains of India. Any train journey adds a lot to the flavour of our Indian adventure. We take the deluxe, early-morning Shatabdi Express ride to the foothills of the Himalayas, to Haridwar, on the banks of River Ganges. Haridwar is a jumping off point for the short drive up to Rishikesh, one of the four holiest sites of Hinduism and a center for meditation, yoga and spiritual studies. It was the site, in 1968, of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's ashram where the Beatles spent a number of weeks and Paul Saltzman spent a week with John, Paul, George and Ringo. We'll cross the Ganges by boat and stop at a small tea and fruit salad shop overlooking the Ganges. 'The Office' is said to have the best chai in all of India. Evening, we'll join a candlelight Aarti ceremony on the Ghats of the Ganges at Parmath Ashram.

Overnight: **Vasundhara Palace Hotel (3 Nights)**

(B)

Activities/Sites Visited:

1. Train from Delhi to Haridwar.
2. Aarti Ceremony at Parmarth Ashram.

Day 14: October 31, 2015, Saturday: Rishikesh

After our morning yoga (optional) we cross the Ganges to visit the site of what used to be Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's ashram at Raja Ji National Park. Here, we'll sit by the edge of the cliff overlooking the Ganges, far below, where the Beatles sat for many hours. Their time at the ashram was their single most creative capsule of time—they wrote 48 songs in just a few short weeks. Overlooking the Ganges, Paul will lead a short meditation and share stories of his time with the Beatles at the Ashram. The rest of the day is free to indulge in the rejuvenation Spa facilities offered at Rishikesh (Treatments optional, by direct payment). **(B)**

Activities/Sites Visited:

1. Morning Yoga Session (optional).
2. Visit to Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's ashram (Subject to permission).
3. Optional Spa treatments.

Day 15: November 1, 2015, Sunday: Rishikesh

Morning yoga session (optional). Balance of the day is free to enjoy activities such as white water rafting on the Ganges, or simply exploring the area. In the evening we'll join Paul for a slide show and talk appropriate for our imminent return to the hustle and bustle of our daily lives: 'Overcoming Life's Anxieties' affords a magical way to overcome anxiety. At our culminating, 'goodbye' dinner celebration Tour Certificates will be presented to all participants. **(B, D)**

Activities/Sites Visited:

1. Morning Yoga Session (optional).
2. White water rafting (Not included in cost).
3. 'Overcoming Life's Anxieties.' Slide show and talk.
4. Tour Certificate Dinner.

Day 16: November 2, 2015, Monday: Rishikesh/Delhi (Train)

Evening deluxe train to Delhi. Dinner is served on Board.

Overnight: **Taj Mahal, New Delhi (1 Night)**

(B, D)

Day 17: November 3, 2015, Tuesday: Delhi/Home

Today we are transferred to Delhi airport for our flight to onward destinations.

(B)

(Note: all daily events are optional for you to participate. At any time you are welcome to just put your feet up or wander the markets and shops. All meetings/recitals are subject to availability).

Tour Price Includes

- Air and train within India on coach class
- 16 nights hotel accommodation as mentioned or similar category
- 25 Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, S=Snack, D=Dinner)
- All transfers and sightseeing as per the itinerary
- Boat Ride at Lake Pichhola –Udaipur
- Exclusive Cocktails & Dance on 150 year Old Boat "The Gangaur" at Udaipur
- Entrance fees to museums & sites included in the itinerary
- Honorariums for Yoga, lecturers and folk dances
- Services of local English speaking guides/drivers

Tour Price does not include:

- International airfares (for assistance on air please give us a call)
- Insurance/Indian visa fees
- Tips/gratuities to guides and drivers

2015 Main Tour Price

Per Person on Twin Sharing

US\$ 6990

(based on min 16 persons)

Single Supplement

US\$ 1995

Optional Trek In the Himalayas (November 2 – November 7, 2015)

This is a moderate trek, which does not require any trekking equipment. Running shoes are sufficient. Weather in the mountains can be brilliantly sunny and warm in the day but chilly and cold at night. It can rain. Himalayan weather conditions can also change at any time. All overnights during the trek are in a rustic lodge which does not have central heating. Hot water bottles and blankets will be provided. Drives up to the lodge and back reveal gorgeous rice paddies, high river gorges and the Himalayan peaks. It's bumpy and can be a little scary, but very exciting. All meals during the trek are vegetarian.



- Day 16: November 2, 2015: Rishikesh/Chopta/Pothibasa (Drive) (2000M/6560 Feet)**
Overnight: **Leopard Leap Lodge (3 Nights)** (L, D)
- Day 17: November 3, 2015: P'basu/Chopta/Deoriatal/Chopta/P'basu (Trek: 5-6 hours)**
Trek is optional, if you'd prefer to stay at the lodge or stroll the area. (B, L, D)
- Day 18: November 4, 2015: P'basu/Chopta/Tungnath/Chopta/P'basu (Trek: 6-7 hours)**
Trek is optional, if you'd prefer to stay at the lodge or stroll the area. (B, L, D)
- Day 19: November 5, 2015: Pothibasa/Rishikesh (Drive)**
After breakfast we drive to Rishikesh. Lunch en-route.
Overnight: **Vasundhara Palace, Rishikesh (1 Night)** (B, L)
- Day 20: November 6, 2015: Rishikesh/Haridwar/New Delhi (Train)**
Day free to enjoy Rishikesh. Evening deluxe train to Delhi. Dinner is served on Board.
Overnight: **The Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi** (B, Dinner On board train)
- Day 21: November 7, 2015: New Delhi/Home**
Today we are transferred to the Delhi Airport for onward destinations. (B)

Trek services Include

- Sharing accommodation at guest house during the entire trek as specified above
- All (vegetarian) meals from lunch on Day 01 to lunch on Day 04
- Services of cook & helpers during the trek
- Services of local trekking guide
- Forest permits for Deoria Tal
- Transportation

Trek Cost (ex Rishikesh)

Per Person on Twin Sharing

US\$ 940**(based on min 6 persons)**

Single Supplement

US\$ 195