

## **FINALLY A COUNTRY THAT RIVALS THE EXPERIENCE OF AFRICA!**

With absolute delight I announce our newest addition to the Rothschild Safaris portfolio – INDIA.

As many know I am from South Africa and have travelled all over the African continent. I have constantly been in search for other destinations around the world that captivate ones spirit as much as Africa does. India is the first country I have found on my travels to be on the same scale as an African adventure - to leave you with a longing for more, a place that touches your soul and feeds your senses.

Intoxicatingly rich in culture & history this is an absolute must do destination!

I was introduced to our India partner a little over a year ago and at that meeting he lit a little fire inside me. I was then invited to travel through the country on a very selective and invigorating trip, I could simply not refuse.

When I left on my Air India flight to Delhi I honestly had no expectations at all, other than the fact that our India contact had left a little heat in me about this destination, I was completely open to accept whatever I was going to be dealt. I very soon discovered that I would love India every bit as much as Africa. That little heat inside turned into a furnace! From arrival in Delhi you are instantly infused into the culture; right off the bat we were dealing with the wonderful traffic system – cars, tuk tuk's (their local transport), pedestrians, cows, cyclists and occasionally goats all have the right to use the roads no matter what lane, in fact no-one pays attention to the lanes, we were told the zebra crossings are there to look pretty. "Look out the side windows, not the front" our guide told us from the start, "and the drive will be much more enjoyable", and yes he was right!

I cannot say any particular temples were better than the other, they are all spectacular, and let me inform you right now that I am generally 'not' a temple or museum type of person, however the temples we visited throughout our trip amazed and astonished me! Many of which are world heritage sites, the Chandela Temples in Khajuraho with over 800 intricate sculptures of warriors, sensuous maidens, dancers and erotic scenes for which they are famous are incomprehensible. Learning about the history behind the famous Taj Mahal brought this incredible temple to life and the many other castles and forts we visited were all equally as intriguing. Our guides at each location were carefully chosen for their knowledge of each temple or castle which I felt was essential.

We spent 7 nights in the Madhya Pradesh region, covering all the major tiger parks. I got to see tigers from the back of an elephant as well as an open vehicle. Our camps were not only the finest in the areas we visited, they, at present, are the only camps that offer specially equipped safari vehicles with individual bucket seats, all other camps squish their clients into small vehicles with long bench seats.

I was at first a little apprehensive about driving between the reserves however it was all part of the adventure. It was here that we really got to enjoy the local villages, stopped numerous times at local markets to photograph, passed gypsy settlements and even enjoyed a cattle market where we created quite a stir with our white skins and camera equipment.

After our local train excursion of 2 hours we arrived in the Uttar Pradesh region. We stayed in the outrageously decadent Oberoi in Agra that overlooks the Taj Mahal from each room in the hotel. Here I indulged in an Ayurvedic massage which was divine and just what I needed after my tiger viewing. I just loved Jaipur, what a colorful town. Here we saw our first cobra snake charmer and got to shop at the many local markets and haggle for good prices. Shopping is amazing and I was told some people travel to India just purely for shopping, anything from hand woven rugs to granite are all dirt cheap.

Indians celebrate everything with colorful festivals throughout the year, where people of all social and economic status mingle freely. We got to experience the tail end of the Festival of Colors, where the locals were rejoicing with delight.

Everything about this country had me marveling, I loved the diversity of cultures we experienced, learning about their arranged marriages, the magnificent architectural and sculptural temples (never thought I would say that!), the hotels and camps, and not least the hospitality, warmth and friendliness of every single person who came our way. With a smile and Namaste there is always someone hopping around ready to give you a helping hand or a bit of history. We just scratched the surface of this amazing land, I can not wait to go back and look forward to planning many trips for all of you out there. We have the perfect on-the-ground team. You will be just as amazed as you are with Africa! So with great joy I welcome India to our very selective collection of countries.

*We are launching our new India destination with a very special trip we have designed to introduce you to this country. This small group is going to be personally led by one of us from Rothschild Safaris.*

*We will be visiting Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Varanasi and the tiger wildlife reserves, in February of 2011. Exact dates to be advised.*

Bring your friends, family and clients along on this fun adventure of discovery! Optional extensions available to other parts of India or Bhutan, or how about ending your trip at an incredible ayurvedic spa!

Please let us know if you are interested in joining us on this group so we can add you to our list to receive all travel details.

*Namaste!*