

RAILWAY ADVENTURES

with Scott McGregor 2010

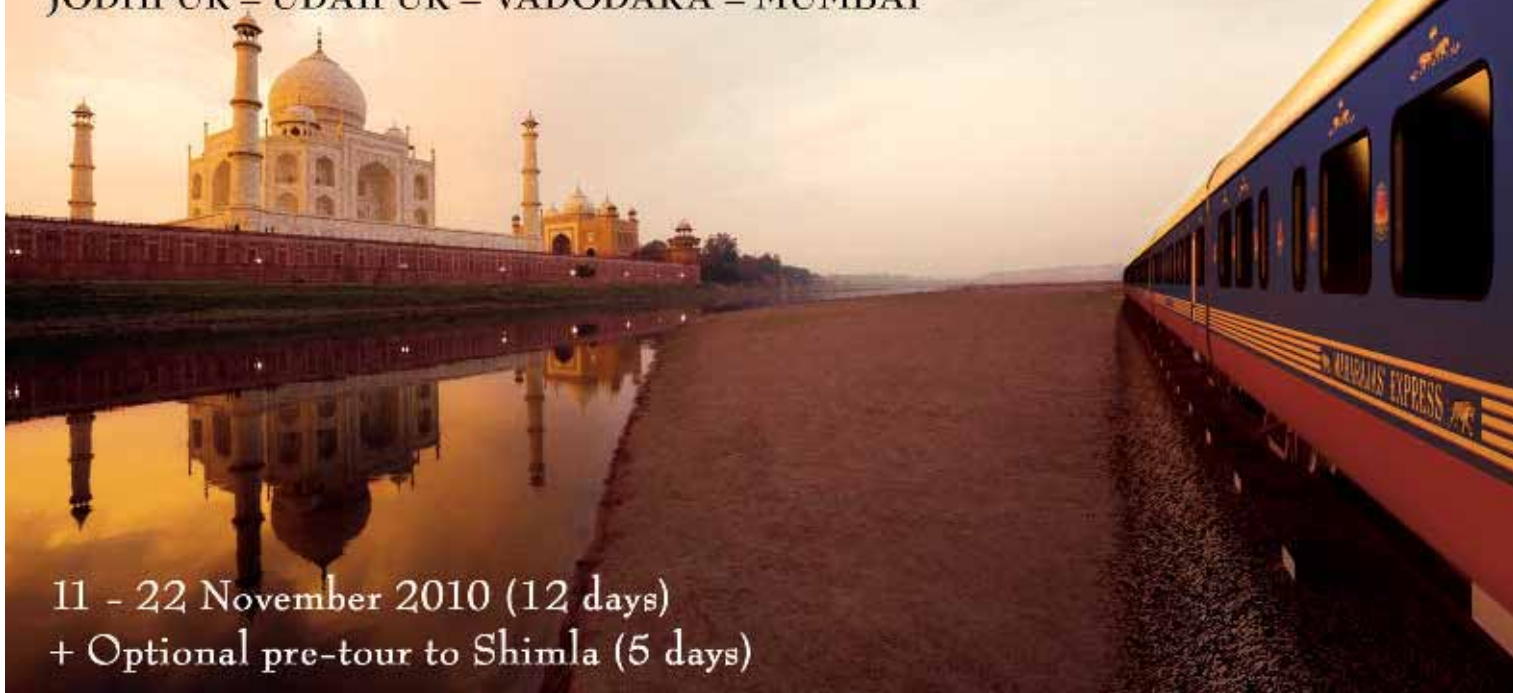


Renaissance
Tours

ROYAL INDIA ON THE MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS



DELHI – AGRA – RANTHAMBORE – JAIPUR – BIKANER –
JODHPUR – UDAIPUR – VADODARA – MUMBAI



11 - 22 November 2010 (12 days)
+ Optional pre-tour to Shimla (5 days)

Including return economy flights on Thai Airways or Singapore Airlines –
if booked and deposited by 30 June 2010!

FOR A COUNTRY LIKE NO OTHER – THERE IS NOW A TRAIN JOURNEY LIKE NO OTHER!

Sparing no expense in its design and construction, the brand-new Maharaja's Express (commencing in early 2010) will recreate the grandeur of India's former princes – complete with every modern amenity and comfort.

This spectacular journey from Delhi to Mumbai through imperial India features 6 nights aboard the brand-new Maharajas' Express. From the luxury of your deluxe 'hotel on wheels', gaze in awe at the Taj Mahal and enjoy a jeep safari in Ranthambore National Park. Explore the historic cities, forts and palaces of Rajasthan - Jaipur, Bikaner, Jodhpur and Udaipur – and visit the cultural centre of Vadodara.

Before the tour, you may join our optional pre-tour to Shimla, the former 'summer capital' of the British Raj.



TOUR LEADER: Scott McGregor



Scott is a well known media personality from 30 years of work as an actor, presenter and producer and has hosted numerous prime time TV programs which have tapped into his passions for Train Travel, History and the realm of the home handy-man.

Well known for his love of train travel through his nationally and internationally broadcast series of programs, **Railway Adventures Across Australia** and **Down The Line**, he's also famous for bursting into peoples houses and doing vast makeovers in a weekend on the ratings hit **Room For Improvement** and for his DIY antics on **Better Homes and Gardens**. More recently however he has been seen on the History Channel hosting such programs as **Australian Icon Towns** and **The Stamp Of Australia**.

Author of two books, **Fix-It** and **Big Boys Toys** he also owns and operates a luxury, railway themed getaway on the top of a mountain just north of Mudgee in central NSW which he built around a collection of beautifully appointed vintage railway carriages called **Ruwenzori Retreat**.

ROYAL INDIA ON THE MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS

11 – 22 November 2010 (12 days)

Taj Mahal – Agra



THU 11 NOV 2010 AUSTRALIA – DELHI

Depart SYD/MEL/BNE/ADL on Singapore Airlines (via Singapore) or PER on Thai Airways (via Bangkok). Late evening arrival in Delhi and transfer to your hotel.

FRI 12 NOV DELHI

Following a welcome breakfast with Scott McGregor and fellow travellers, depart the hotel for a half-day tour of Old Delhi. Begin with a visit to the Raj Ghat, the simple memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, the 'father of the nation'. Continue past the Red Fort and Jama Masjid, the city's principal mosque. Also see the India Gate and Parliament House. Afternoon at leisure. (Meals included – B, D)

SAT 13 NOV DELHI

This morning explore New Delhi, built as the 'Imperial Capital' of British India in the 1920s and 1930s with imposing public buildings set along broad tree-lined avenues. See the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official residence of the President of India and erstwhile residence of the British Viceroy and two monuments from Delhi's past - Qutub Minar, the soaring Tower of Victory, and Humayun's Tomb, the first great example of a Mughal garden tomb.

After lunch, visit the National Rail Museum. Sprawling over 11 acres, this fascinating museum preserves India's long and rich rail history which dates back to 1853 when the country's first broad gauge railway ran from Bombay to Thane. (B,L)

SUN 14 NOV BOARD MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS – AGRA

Early morning transfer from the hotel to Safardjung Railway station to board the Maharajas' Express. Enjoy breakfast on board as you depart Delhi for Agra, home to one of the world's great architectural wonders - the Taj Mahal.

On arrival in Agra, first visit the Agra Fort. Built by Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1565, it overlooks the Taj Mahal and Yamuna River. The maze of courtyards and lavish private chambers reflect the grandeur of the Mughal Empire.

After lunch visit the Taj Mahal, built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan as the mausoleum for his favourite queen Mumtaz Mahal. This architectural masterpiece is constructed entirely out of white marble with beautiful inlay work and marble screens. Construction of the Taj Mahal began in 1631 and ended by 1653. Approximately 20,000 of India's most revered craftsmen were recruited to give shape to this poetry in marble.

Return to the comfort of the train and dinner on board. (B,L,D)

MON 15 NOV SAWAI MADHOPUR (RANTHAMBORE) – JAIPUR

On arrival in Sawai Madhopur, disembark for a jeep safari to the 'Ranthambore National Park', 400 square kilometres of dry, deciduous forest. The park derives its name from the huge 1000 year old Rajput fortress of Ranthambore which sits 215 m high in the forest. Originally the private

hunting ground of the Maharajas of Jaipur, Ranthambore was declared a National Park in 1973. The Park is famous for its open sightings of tigers, sambar, chital, nilgai, chinkara, wild boar, sloth bear, hyena, jackal and leopard. It is also a bird watcher's paradise.

Return to the train for brunch as your journey continues to the picturesque city of Jaipur, the 'jewel in the crown' of the desert state of Rajasthan. Built by Raja Jai Singh in the 18th century, it is surrounded by rugged hills and dotted by magnificent palaces, massive forts and exquisite temples. Visit the fabulous 'Amber Fort', a hilltop castle surrounded by fortified battlements and overlooking the Moat Lake. Step back into the Mughal era as you enter the Chamber of Mirrors (Sheesh Mahal), Zenana (women's quarters) and the Hall of Victory.

Continue to the romantic hamlet of Kukas situated amidst the Aravali hills for an Exhibition Elephant Polo Match. In the land of the Maharajas, the game of Elephant Polo was one of the ultimate royal experiences. As in yesteryears, the arrival of the guests is accompanied by the royal military band and the beating of 'Nagadas' (huge Indian drums). Horses and camels add to the royal welcome, before the start of the game. You will have the option to watch or alternatively participate in an exhibition game. After the match, enjoy a sumptuous dinner before reboarding the train for your onward journey. (B,L,D)



Umaid Bhawan Palace – Jodhpur



Ranthambore National Park

TUE 16 NOV

BIKANER

Early morning arrival into Bikaner. In the north of Rajasthan, the medieval city of Bikaner was once a major centre in the cross-desert caravan trade and is renowned for the best riding camels in the world. Bikaner's forts, palaces and temples are splendid creations made in red and yellow sandstone and are living reflections of its rich historical and architectural legacy.

Your excursion begins by visiting Junagarh Fort, an unassailable fortress which has never been conquered. Built in 1593 A.D. by Raja Rai Singh, the fort is a formidable structure encircled by a moat. Inside be overwhelmed by the Diwan-i-Khas, the Phool Mahal (Flower Palace), which is decorated with paintings and carved marble panels, the Hawa Mahal, the Badal Mahal and the Anup Mahal.

After lunch in a majestic palace in the midst of the desert you are escorted through the surrounding village. Experience the royal pageantry as a convoy of decorated canopied camel carts accompanied by musicians takes you for a Sundowner in the Sand Dunes.

Rejoin the train and continue your journey to Jodhpur. (B,L,D)

WED 17 NOV

JODHPUR

After an early breakfast, disembark at Jodhpur, also known as the 'Blue City'. The erstwhile ancient capital of Marwar, Jodhpur, is situated on the edge of the Thar Desert and is famous for its magnificent forts and palaces reflecting the architectural splendours of the Rajput era, including the Mehrangarh Fort; Jaswant Thada and the charming Umaid Bhawan Palace.

Enjoy an off the beaten track jeep safari through the arid countryside south of Jodhpur, to the neighbouring rural village of Rohet - the fortified desert home of the descendants of the 16th century Rathore of the Champawat clan and home of the Bishnoi tribe. The Bishnois are passionate environmentalists; a community of nature worshippers in Rajasthan who participate ardently in the preservation of the Black Buck, an endangered species. Your Village Safari takes you into homes of the local villagers where you will witness traditional folk rituals and see village artisans at work.

Following lunch at Rohet Garh, the ancestral home of the Rathores since 1622 AD and now a leading Heritage Hotel, proceed to the extravagant Mehrangarh Fort which features intricate latticed windows, elaborately carved panels and elegantly curved porches.

Return to the train and continue your journey to glorious Udaipur. (B,L,D)

Note: *The sightseeing might be split into two groups whereby Group-A will proceed on tour as per the above schedule and Group-B will undertake the tour in the reverse i.e. visit Mehrangarh Fort in the morning followed by lunch at Rohet Garh and Village Safari.*

THU 18 NOV

UDAIPUR

Wake to the magnificent scenery of the Aravali Hills as you arrive into Udaipur, one of the most romantic cities in India. Known as the 'Venice of the East', Udaipur is an enchanting image of white marble palaces, placid lakes and green hills. It is an oasis of colour in a stark and arid region.

Begin with a visit to the City Palace, the largest palace complex in Rajasthan, with

its scalloped arches, fretted balconies, and cupolas. Visit Mor Chowk and see its lavish mosaics of peacocks; Moti Mahal with beautiful mirror work; Chini Mahal covered in ornamental tiles and the spectacular Zenana Mahal.

Following lunch, proceed on a 'Walking Tour' through the Old Market of Udaipur. Browse through the shops selling exquisitely embroidered and printed fabrics, jewellery, paintings and carved wood artefacts and other local crafts. Return to the luxury of the train. (B,L,D)

FRI 19 NOV

VADODARA

Early this morning, you will arrive into Vadodara, a graceful city of palaces, parks, temples and museums and considered by many as the de facto cultural capital of Gujarat.

Begin with a visit to the World Heritage site of Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park, an ancient town full of ruins scattered over the foothills of Pavagadh. Visit the magnificent Jami Masjid, an architectural marvel built in 1513 with tall minarets and minutely carved gates, followed by the Kewda Masjid and the Nagina Masjid.

After lunch at the historic Jambughoda Palace, visit the Maharaja Fateh Singh Museum which houses a royal collection of works by the important 19th century painter Raja Ravi Verma and European 'old masters'.

Enjoy 'high tea' at the magnificent Laxmi Vilas Palace, built in the sumptuous Indo-Saracenic style of architecture for Maharaja Sayajirao III in 1890, before your last night aboard the Maharajas' Express. (B,L,D)



Hawa Mahal – Jaipur

SAT 20 NOV DISEMBARK IN MUMBAI

Early morning arrival and disembarkation in Mumbai, the bustling financial, entertainment and film industry capital of India. Home to almost fifteen million people, Mumbai is an extraordinary melting pot of ethnic backgrounds, rich and poor.

Proceed on a tour to Elephanta Island, an hour's ferry ride from Mumbai. Known as the 'City of Caves', Elephanta Island is renowned for its collection of rock art linked to the cult of Shiva. Here, Indian art has found one of its most perfect expressions, particularly the huge high reliefs in the main cave.

Return to Mumbai in the afternoon and check-in to your hotel. Evening at leisure. (B,L)

SUN 21 NOV MUMBAI

To conclude your railway adventure, today you will travel out of Mumbai to Matheran, the former 'hill station' for Bombay (now Mumbai). At an elevation of around 800m Matheran is one of the four 'hill stations' in India reached by a so-called 'toy railway'. Opened in 1907, the 20-km railway has a gauge of two feet with a ruling gradient of 1 in 20. The track zigzags up the mountain, treating travellers to a breathtaking view. Matheran is further unique in that, within the resort, the only modes of transport are on horseback, by man-pulled rickshaw or on foot.

Return to Mumbai for a special farewell dinner. (B,L,D)

MON 22 NOV DEPART MUMBAI

Day at leisure until transfer to the airport for departure on either Thai Airways (via Bangkok) or Singapore Airlines (via Singapore). Overnight in flight. (B)

TUE 23 NOV ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Early morning arrival in Australia.

YOUR ACCOMMODATION*****

Delhi – Shangri-La
 Maharaja's Express – Deluxe Cabin
 Mumbai – Four Seasons
NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be utilised.

TOUR CODE: RLWY101111

DEPOSIT: \$1,500 per person

TOUR PRICES:

Per person, twin-share	\$9,750
Single supplement	\$5,250*
Single supplement	\$950**
Reduction without flights	-\$1,500

* Single in hotels and train
 ** Single in hotels, twin-share on train

UPGRADE TO JUNIOR SUITE (on MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS)

Per person, twin-share	\$778
Single supplement	\$1,556

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy flights on Singapore Airlines ex-SYD/MEL/BNE/ADL or Thai Airways ex-PER - if booked and deposited by 30 June 2010
- 5 nights accommodation in five-star hotels
- 6 nights accommodation in a Deluxe Cabin on the Maharajas' Express
- Most meals in Delhi and Mumbai and all meals on the Maharajas' Express (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner) including house brands of Indian wines, beer and spirits, soft drinks, tea, coffee and mineral water
- Butler service on board on the Maharajas' Express
- Transfers on arrival and departure if travelling on group flights (Thai or Singapore). Comfortable air-conditioned coach transport throughout.
- Comprehensive sightseeing tours as per itinerary including all entrance fees
- Porterage at stations
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers in Delhi and Mumbai
- Visa for India

DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Transfer on arrival / departure if not travelling on group flights (Thai or Singapore).
- Gratuities on board the Maharajas' Express
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry etc.
- Travel insurance

SUGGESTED AIRLINES: Thai Airways (via Bangkok) or Singapore Airlines (via Singapore)

Please contact Renaissance Tours for assistance with airfares.



ABOARD THE MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS

ACCOMMODATION ON BOARD

The Maharajas' Express features five carriages with Deluxe Cabins, six carriages with Junior Suites, two with Suites and one for a grand Presidential Suite. Each cabin has large panoramic windows, individual temperature controls, LCD televisions, DVD players, direct dial telephone, internet, electronic safe deposit box and in-house movies and live television. The Maharajas' Express is equipped with 110/230V sockets.



Suite



Deluxe twin bedroom



Presidential Suite



Junior Suite



Deluxe Double



Presidential Suite

MAHARAJAS' DINING

The Maharajas' Express has two fine dining restaurants that seat 42 persons at a time, with 'single seating' dining. House brands of Indian wines and beer are included.



Peacock Restaurant



Haveli Restaurant

MAHARAJAS' BAR AND LOUNGES

The Maharajas' Express features a Bar with house brands of wines, beer and spirits included. There is also an Observation lounge with its own bar, game tables and comfortable club arm-chairs.



INSURANCE FOR MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS

The Maharajas' Express is comprehensively insured for fire, earthquake, theft and terrorism. All guests are covered under an umbrella insurance cover. However Renaissance Tours requires that all travellers are covered by individual comprehensive travel and medical insurance policies

EMBARKATION & DISEMBARKATION

Guests are required to check-in at least 1 hour prior to departure at a pre assigned venue at the Delhi railway stations for pre-boarding formalities. Following completion of boarding formalities, you will be escorted to your cabin and assisted with your luggage.

On your final night on board, the Train Manager will assist with disembarkation formalities which include luggage and clearance of extras.

YOUR JOURNEY PRICE INCLUDES

Accommodation in double / twin bedded cabins with en suite bathrooms, all meals, soft beverages, house brands of Indian wines, beer and spirits, butler service, guided off train excursions as illustrated in the journeys inclusive of entrance fees, still camera fee, transport and services of a guide, complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water on board, portorage at stations, city tour and lunch / dinner at the city of disembarkation.

YOUR JOURNEY PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

Items of a personal nature including travel insurance, gratuities, telephone calls,

laundry, alcoholic beverages (apart from the house brands of wines, spirits, beer served in the restaurants and bar), video, film and professional still camera fees.

DRESS CODE

We recommend smart casual clothing and suitable walking shoes for off-train excursions during the day. Comfortable attire in natural subdued colours (bright colours are not advised) which blend with the landscape is essential for all excursion to wildlife reserves. Formal wear is customary for dinner. The tradition and sheer elegance of the train provides an opportunity to dress for the occasion, recreating the magic and opulence of a royal era. Warm clothing is advisable on the winter departures.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

There is limited storage space inside your cabin. We recommend that each guest travels with luggage as per international airline - rules for first / business class passengers. It is also advisable to carry soft-topped luggage as it is easier to store. Luggage storage is provided under the bed and in the luggage hold.

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENT

Kindly specify any special dietary requirements at the time of booking to avoid disappointment during your journey. Every effort will be made to accommodate all culinary requests; however, we are unable to provide meals requiring strict religious observance in the preparation.

PORTERS

Porters will be available at all embarkation and disembarkation stations to assist you with your luggage.

BUTLERS

There is a dedicated team of butlers on board to attend to your every need. Each carriage is manned by a single butler, on call 24 hours, trained to meet the needs of our guests and comply with utmost speed and efficiency. Our butlers take pride in offering unique services to each of our guests ensuring a memorable stay on board.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS / DISABLED PASSENGERS

We regret that the dimensions of the carriages and design of the train are not suitable for wheelchair bound passengers. We also recommend that guests with

limited mobility and other such constraints should be accompanied by an able-bodied passenger. However, our valets will be available to provide additional assistance. Kindly specify any special requirements at the time of booking.

ELECTRICITY

Voltage available on the train is 110 volts. International adaptors are also available on board.

OFF TRAIN EXCURSIONS

Since most of the Off Train Excursions involve a fair amount of walking, we recommend you pack some comfortable walking shoes. A moderate degree of physical fitness is required to participate on our off train excursions. You may encounter unpaved sidewalks, uneven surfaces and problems getting on and off the train.

Travellers with walking difficulties or any such physical condition should inform us at the time of booking. We reserve the right to refuse participation on any of our excursions to anyone who would be incapable of completing the tour or would cause unacceptable delays to the rest of the group. In these circumstances there would be no refund for any unused part of the tour.

GUIDES

On all off train excursions, you will be accompanied by professional and qualified English speaking guides.

TRANSPORTATION ON EXCURSIONS

Most excursions off the train include coach transportation for Deluxe Cabin & Junior Suite passengers and cars for Suite & Presidential Suite passengers; however, certain excursions are also undertaken by jeeps.

SMOKING POLICY

In accordance with Indian Law, smoking is not permissible on board the train. Smoking is also prohibited in all public places such as restaurants, airports, stations, shopping malls, hotels, public areas etc.

PARAMEDIC ON BOARD

There is a paramedic on board the train who can provide emergency medical facilitation if required.

HEALTH

No specific vaccinations are required for travel to India, however, foreign tourists

should be in possession of a Yellow Fever Vaccination certificate conforming to international health regulations, if they are originating or travelling through Yellow Fever endemic countries. Anti-malaria precautions should be taken. It is also recommended that you consult your physician for any personal health advice based on your travel itinerary. If you are taking prescription medication, it is advisable to carry enough supplies to last for the duration of your trip. It is also advisable to carry sufficient insect repellent.

LAUNDRY

A limited laundry service is available at select destinations. Please contact your carriage butler for details.

INTERNET

High speed Internet access is available on board. Please contact the Train Manager for details.

MOBILE TELEPHONES

Kindly keep your Mobile telephone on silent mode on board the train out of consideration for your fellow passengers and also while visiting certain monuments on your Off Train Excursions. Please also note that the use of mobile telephones and laptop computers is discouraged in all the public areas and should be used in the privacy of your cabin.

MOBILE PHONE RECEPTION

The reception can vary while the train is moving, but does improve when the train is stationary or near main roads.

TELEPHONE CALLS

Telephone facility is provided in all cabins. The cost for all external calls is additional and not included in the cost of the journey.

ON-BOARD SAFE

All cabins are equipped with electronic safes. While every precaution is taken, the Maharajas' Express cannot be held liable for loss of valuables.

GRATUITY

While all services are included, gratuity is at your discretion. The following are suggested:

- US\$ 2 per suitcase per way
- US\$ 10 per day to Butlers
- US\$ 10 per day for Staff

For further information, please visit: www.rirtl.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

How to Book:

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit(s) and a copy of page 1 of your passport. Upon receipt of your Booking Form and deposit(s), you will receive confirmation of your place from Renaissance Tours.

Deposit / Final Payments

Your deposit is used to pay for hotel and Maharajas' Express deposits and is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation. Your final payment is due 60 days before departure.. Failure to make your final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit. We reserve the right to charge a late payment fee in the event of late booking and/or payment to cover additional communication and other expenses.

Payment by cash, cheque, American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. A 3% service charge applies for payment by American Express and Diners Club.

We reserve to right to charge a late payment fee in the event of late booking and/or payment to cover additional communication and other expenses.

Cancellation & Refunds

a) **Cancellation by You** - Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. . In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

INTERNATIONAL TOURS

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit*
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

*Includes any flight deposit paid.

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above cancellation charges, the full insurance premium together with any existing administration fees is also payable in the event of a cancellation by the Client. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) **Cancellation by Us** - We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers and / or cancellation of the Maharajas' Express journey).

Except for force majeure or the Client's failure to pay the final balance, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. Unless the Client fails to pay the final balance, we will return all monies paid, excluding payment for travel insurance and administration fees.

No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. You can make your own arrangements or your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours. In either case all participants must provide the following

information no later than 60 days prior to commencement of travel:

- a copy of your travel insurance policy (or details of master policy)
- the emergency telephone number of your insurance company
- next of kin emergency contact.

Fitness and Participation

While our tours do not require a special level of fitness, for the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 2-3 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

If you (or we) have any doubts about your ability to participate in your chosen tour, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require a doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour and provide you with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

Terms & Conditions

You can find the full terms & conditions on the Renaissance Tours booking form. They can also be found at www.renaissancetours.com.au or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.

TOUR ARRANGEMENTS BY:

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email: info@renaissancetours.com.au
ABN 14 069 591 448 Lic. 2TA4526


Renaissance
Tours