Textiles, Temples & Tigers of India

January 19-February 3, 2018 (16 days)
with Field Museum Curator Alaka Wali and fashion designer Maria Pinto

“There is tremendous value in these tours that an individual traveler could not replicate. My experience was far more rewarding because the tour virtually eliminated the negatives and maximized exposure to a fascinating range of the cultural influences.” - Susan, Virginia
Dear Members and Friends,

I invite you to join The Field Museum on a journey through India with Field Museum Curator Alaka Wali, PhD and Chicago-based fashion designer Maria Pinto. This multi-faceted trip focuses on textile and crafts traditions, astounding art and architecture, and premier wildlife parks, enhanced by the deep knowledge of our expert leadership.

Highlights include:

- **Superb textile collections and craft stores**: the TAPI Collection, the Calico Museum, Patan's master weavers, the Gandhi Ashram, the Bandhej Collection, the Anokhi Museum of Hand Printing, and the Crafts Museum.

- **Seven spectacular UNESCO World Heritage sites**: the rock-cut sculptures of the Elephanta Caves, Jaipur's exquisite Amber Fort, the remarkable observatory of Jantar Mantar, the perfectly preserved deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri, the vast Agra Fort complex, the extraordinary Taj Mahal (including an optional sunrise visit), and Delhi’s Qutub Complex.

- **Uma Ramakrishnan, PhD**, recipient of The Field Museum’s 2016 Parker/Gentry Award, joins our group for two days. Uma specializes in tiger research and conservation and will provide special insights at Ranthambore National Park, which supports one of the world’s healthiest populations of tigers.

- **Keoladeo Ghana National Park**, one of the most famous bird sanctuaries in the world, which you will explore by bicycle rickshaw.

- A special **Raas Leela dance performance** (“The Dance of Passion”), and a cooking demonstration, both at a heritage garden resort.

- Delicious meals (all are included) and superb accommodations (several are ultra-luxurious Oberoi properties).

Also available is an optional, two-night extension to Varanasi, which includes the Aarti ceremony along the Ganges, India’s holiest river; the museum and ruined monasteries at Sarnath; and a specialty textile center. I hope you will join Alaka and Maria for this unique Field Museum journey to India.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Lariviere, PhD
President & CEO
The Field Museum

PS. Our group is limited to a maximum of just 20 participants, so I encourage you to call the Field Museum Tours office today at (800) 856-8951 or email fm@studytours.org to reserve your space.

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**Great itinerary and sights. The lectures added very much to our enjoyment of the trip.** - Richard, California

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**FIELD MUSEUM STUDY LEADERS & HOSTS**

**Alaka Wali**, PhD is curator of North American Anthropology in the Science and Education Division of The Field Museum. She was the founding director of the Center for Cultural Understanding and Change from 1995-2010. During that time, Alaka pioneered the development of participatory social science research and community engagement processes based in museum science. She curates the North American collection and works closely with colleagues in the Keller Science Action Center to implement environmental conservation programs in both Chicago and the Amazon regions of Peru. Her research focuses on the relationship between art and the capacity for social resilience. Alaka was born in India and maintains strong ties to her birth homeland.

**Maria Pinto** is a contemporary Chicago designer and artist who creates beautiful, versatile fashion with a modern, urban edge, as exemplified by her ready-to-wear label, M2057 by Maria Pinto. Her designs have appeared in *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, the *New York Times*, *Women’s Wear Daily*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Chicago Tribune*, among other publications. Maria celebrated her 25th anniversary in fashion design in 2016 with a retrospective at Chicago’s City Gallery in the Historic Water Tower. In 2012 she co-curated an exhibition for The Field Museum, “Fashion and the Field Museum Collection.” Her designs are now part of the Museum’s permanent collection. Maria is a member of the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) and is the recipient of the School of the Art Institute’s “Legend of Fashion” Award. She also serves as a member of Chicago’s Advisory Council on Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

**Uma Ramakrishnan**, PhD will join us in Ranthambore National Park (January 26th-28th). Uma is an associate professor at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore, India. Uma uses genetic data to better understand how the human footprint is negatively impacting endangered species. For the past decade, she and her students have been studying tiger conservation genetics to better understand whether tigers move between protected areas. Uma and her students have pioneered applications of genomic methods to non-invasively sampled tiger feces. Uma also investigates the origins of Indian biodiversity and has spent time at The Field Museum as a Bass Fellow. She is amazed that despite a population of over a billion people, biodiversity persists in the Indian subcontinent. She hopes her research can help guide policy that facilitates a biodiverse and tiger-rich India.
Friday, January 19, 2018: ARRIVE MUMBAI, INDIA
Upon arrival in Mumbai, you will be met at the airport and transferred to the ultra-luxurious Oberoi Hotel Mumbai, where you will check-in to your ocean-view room. (Rooms will be available for check-in any time after 2pm.) Overnight at The Oberoi Hotel for two nights.

Saturday, January 20: MUMBAI | ELEPHANTA | MUMBAI
This morning pass through the famous Gateway of India and take a short boat ride across Mumbai harbor to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Elephanta. Here we admire a fine cluster of rock-cut caves, dating between the 6th and 8th centuries. Return to The Oberoi for lunch, then visit the TAPI Collection and meet with its founders, Praful and Shilpa Shah. The Collection is one of the foremost collections of Indian historic textiles, comprising a wide spectrum of techniques: court textiles used by the Mughal and provincial rulers, trade textiles of the 15th-19th centuries produced for export markets, regional embroideries, tie-dyed textiles, and religious and folk textiles. This evening we enjoy a welcome dinner at a private venue at our hotel. (B,L,D)

Sunday, January 21: MUMBAI | AHMEDABAD
After breakfast explore the Prince of Wales Museum, designed in the Indo-Saracenic style with sections for archaeology, natural history, and art, including a fine collection of miniature paintings, bas-reliefs from the Elephanta caves, and Buddha images. We return to The Oberoi for lunch and then transfer to the airport in time for our short flight to Ahmedabad. We check into deluxe rooms at our hotel, where we have dinner this evening. Overnight at the Marriott Courtyard for three nights. (B,L,D)

Monday, January 22: AHMEDABAD
After breakfast we head out for a heritage tour, transferring from our motor coach to a tuk-tuk (a three-wheeled motor vehicle) for a visit to Swami Narayan Temple. From here we walk to Kavi Dalpatram's House, the Jain Temple, and Juma Mosque. By tuk-tuk we return to our motor coach and drive to the Calico Museum of Textiles, one of the world’s finest Indian textile collections (antique and modern). Admire court textiles used by the Mughal and provincial rulers of the 15th to 19th centuries, regional embroideries of the 19th century, tie-dyed textiles, religious textiles, and more. The museum has played an important role in determining the curriculum taught in the textile design courses at Ahmedabad’s prestigious National Institute of Design. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Mahatma Gandhi Ashram that Gandhi established on the banks of the Sabarmati River in 1917. Here he learned the art of spinning and weaving, not only as a way of producing clothes but also as a way of thought. The ashram is now a museum with historic artifacts, a Khadi (hand) weaving center and shops. Dinner is at our hotel this evening. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, January 23: AHMEDABAD | MODHERA | PATAN | AHMEDABAD
After breakfast depart for a full day visit to Patan, stopping en route at Modhera to visit the 11th-century Sun Temple, an extraordinary architectural complex. After lunch at a local restaurant we continue on to Patan, where we discover master weavers of the art of double ikat, known locally as Patola. The warp and weft are both tied and dyed, and then put on to the loom for weaving. We return to our hotel in time for dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, January 24: AHMEDABAD | JAIPUR
This morning we visit Bandhej, established in 1985 to preserve and sustain the skills of indigenous artisans, creating clothes that are hand woven, block printed tie and dye, using eco-friendly natural fiber. All textiles are designed at their studio and produced by skilled traditional craftspeople from all over India. Return to our hotel for lunch and then transfer to the airport in time for your onward journey.
for our short flight to Jaipur. Upon arrival we check-in to our ultra-luxurious hotel, where we have dinner this evening. **Overnight at The Rambagh Palace, Jaipur, for two nights. (B,L,D)**

**Thursday, January 25: JAIPUR**

This morning we visit the splendid Amber Fort, site of a 17th-century palace overlooking a lake at the entrance to a rocky mountain grove. The palace is a distinguished specimen of Rajput architecture. The Jai Mandir (Hall of Victory) is so delicately ornamented with fine inlay work that it glows. We also visit the Anokhi Museum, a small textile museum dedicated to the ancient craft of hand block printing that is housed in a restored, UNESCO-award-winning, 400-year-old *haveli* (mansion). Admire a varied selection of block printed textiles alongside images, tools, and related objects chosen to provide an in-depth look into the complexity of this ancient tradition. After lunch at the Raj Palace we visit the City Palace Museum and its new painting gallery with Giles Tillotson, an expert on Indian architecture, art, and history. City Palace, an imposing blend of traditional Rajasthani and Mughal architecture, is a complex divided into a series of courtyards, gardens, and palatial buildings (including the City Palace Museum, with collections of Afghan and Persian carpets, miniature paintings, astronomical manuscripts in Persian and Sanskrit, and medieval weapons). Our last visit of the day is the UNESCO World Heritage site of Jantar Mantar, an extraordinary and vast astronomical observatory complex built in the early 18th century. Dinner is at our hotel this evening. **(B,L,D)**

**Friday, January 26: JAIPUR | RANTHAMBORE**

After breakfast we drive to Ranthambore National Park and check in to the ultra-luxurious *Oberoi Vanyavilas.* Here we meet Uma Ramakrishnan, our Field Museum Research Associate, who is a leading tiger expert and conservationist. After lunch at our hotel, enjoy a game drive in Ranthambore, a rich mosaic of deciduous woodland, bamboo thickets, and marshes covering 500 square miles. Dominated by the 10th-century Ranthambore Fort that sits atop a plateau 700 feet above the plains, this scenic reserve contains high concentrations of herbivores such as Spotted Deer, Sambar, and Wild Boar, and it is this abundance of prey that supports one of India's healthiest populations of tigers. Dinner is at our hotel this evening. **Overnight at The Oberoi Vanyavilas for two nights. (B,L,D)**

**Saturday, January 27: RANTHAMBORE**

Today is devoted to wildlife viewing in Ranthambore National Park, with an excursion in the morning, lunch at the hotel, and another excursion in the afternoon. Uma Ramakrishnan will discuss her work at The Field Museum and at tiger reserves in India. Dinner is at our hotel this evening. **Overnight at The Oberoi Vanyavilas for two nights. (B,L,D)**

**Sunday, January 28: RANTHAMBORE | BHARATPUR**

Enjoy one last morning wildlife drive in Ranthambore National Park and then transfer to Bharatpur, where we check-in to our hotel and have lunch. The hotel, set in a 12-acre, 200-year-old garden, offers visitors an opportunity to experience quiet luxury near Keoladeo Ghana National Park, one of the most famous bird sanctuaries in the world. This evening, enjoy dinner and a Raas Leela dance performance at our hotel. **Overnight at The Bagh Resorts for two nights. (B,L,D)**

**Monday, January 29: BHARATPUR | KEO- LADEO GHANA NATIONAL PARK | DEEG PALACE | BHARATPUR**

This morning we visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Keoladeo Ghana National Park, one of the major wintering areas for large numbers of aquatic birds from Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, China, and Siberia. Some 364 species of birds, including the rare Siberian crane, have been recorded in the park. Motor coaches are not allowed inside the park, so we will both explore on foot and be
transported by bicycle-rickshaw. We could see over 150 species, ranging from Sarus Crane to Small Minivet and Ruddy-breasted Crake to White-tailed Eagle. After lunch at our hotel, including a cooking demonstration, we depart for the 18th-century Deeg Palace. Built as a luxurious summer resort for the Maharajas of Bharatpur, the complex consists of splendid marble palaces and pavilions surrounded by extensive gardens and numerous fountains. Return to our hotel in time for dinner. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, January 30: BHARATPUR | FATEHPUR SIKRI | AGRA
After breakfast we depart for the UNESCO World Heritage site of Fatehpur Sikri, the deserted city of Mughal Emperor Akbar the Great. This “City of Victory” has well-preserved and magnificent audience halls, palaces, and mosques. Continue on to our luxurious hotel in Agra, where we have lunch and settle into our rooms. This afternoon we visit another UNESCO World Heritage site, the 17th-century Taj Mahal, which was built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved consort Mumtaz Mahal. This beautiful mausoleum is made of pure white marble and considered the finest example of Mughal architecture, a style that combines Persian, Turkish, Indian, and Islamic architectural elements. After witnessing sunset at the site, we return to our hotel for dinner. Overnight at The Oberoi Amarvilas for two nights. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, January 31: AGRA
Rise early today for a spectacular return visit to the Taj Mahal for sunrise. Return to our hotel for breakfast and then set out for a visit to Agra Fort. Built by Emperor Akbar, the fort's maze of courtyards, mosques, and private chambers echo the story of the Mughal Empire. While in Akbar's time the fort was principally a military structure, by his grandson Shah Jahan's time the fort had become partially a palace. After lunch at a local restaurant we return to our hotel for some time at leisure. Gather for dinner at the hotel this evening. (B,L,D)

Thursday, February 1: AGRA | DELHI
Those who are interested may return to the Taj Mahal for another sunrise visit this morning. After breakfast at our hotel we depart for Delhi, where we have lunch at our hotel, the ultra-luxurious Oberoi, New Delhi, and settle into our rooms. This afternoon, visit the Crafts Museum that houses many distinctive paintings, embroidery, textiles, and various crafts of clay, stone, and wood. Some of its prized collections include rare, 300-year-old Kashmiri dushalas (shaws), unique embroidered handkerchiefs from Chamba, rare brocade and Baluchari Saris, Kutch embroidery, precious metal jewelry, and much more. The museum also includes a village complex spread over five acres, with 15 structures representing day-to-day life via dwellings, courtyards, and shrines from different Indian states. We return to our hotel to freshen up before a sumptuous farewell dinner at a private venue. Overnight at The Oberoi, New Delhi, for two nights. (B,L,D)

Friday, February 2: DELHI
This morning we visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Humayun’s Tomb, the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent and, architecturally, the predecessor of the Taj Mahal. After lunch at a local restaurant we visit the Qutub Complex, also a UNESCO World Heritage site, which includes a 236-foot high minaret, a 1,500-year old iron pillar that does not rust, and a large mosque that was constructed from reused temple pillars. Dinner is at our hotel tonight. (Most flights depart for the U.S. either very late tonight or early in the morning of February 3rd, so participants departing tonight will be transferred to the airport as needed after dinner.) (B,L,D)

Saturday, February 3: DELHI | HOME OR VARANASI
Travelers departing today will be transferred to the airport as needed for flights homeward. (Check-out time is no later than noon.)
Saturday, February 3, 2018: DELHI | VARANASI
After breakfast, transfer to the airport for our flight to Varanasi. Upon arrival we transfer to our comfortable hotel, where we have lunch and settle in to our rooms. In the late afternoon we set out to witness the enchanting Aarti ceremony along the Ganges, India’s most sacred river. Return to our hotel for dinner. *Overnight at The Gateway Ganges for two nights.* (B,L,D)

Sunday, February 4: VARANASI | SARNATH | VARANASI
Wake early this morning to enjoy a sunrise boat ride, observing the Hindu way of life along the extensive ghats (steps) and temples that line the Ganges River. The ghats at Varanasi are full of pilgrims who flock to the sacred river to take a dip in the holy water, which is believed to absolve one from all sins. Return to our hotel for breakfast and then visit one of the finest weaving centers in Varanasi, Loom to Luxury, where we see artisans weave the famous Benaras Sarees on hand looms. After lunch at our hotel we set out this afternoon to visit Sarnath where, in the Deer Park, Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon after he attained enlightenment. See the ruins of monasteries built more than 2,000 years ago, the Dhamok Stupa, the Dharmaraja ka Stupa, and the modern Vihara, with interior frescoes by a Japanese artist. Also visit the small but superb Sarnath Museum. Dinner is at our hotel this evening. (B,L,D)

Monday, February 5: VARANASI | DELHI | HOME
This morning we transfer to the airport for our flight back to Delhi where, upon arrival, we transfer to a comfortable and convenient airport hotel, have lunch, and settle in to our day rooms. The balance of the day is at leisure until we gather for dinner at the hotel this evening. Participants will be transferred to the airport after dinner, in time for their homebound flights. (Check-out time is no later than 10:00 pm.) (B,L,D)
What to Expect

You must be in good physical health to participate in this program. This itinerary features a significant amount of walking. Many streets are of packed dirt, and some attractions are only accessible via steep staircases with tall, uneven steps. To reap the full rewards of this adventure, travelers must be able to walk at least two miles a day, unassisted, keeping up with fellow travelers. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this itinerary in hand and discuss whether or not this program is appropriate for you. Our hotel accommodations are luxurious and several are the finest in India. Our meals (all included) are of the highest quality. However, bear in mind that some facilities in India are generally not up to most North American travelers’ standards. You may encounter problems with bureaucratic service, road conditions, unpaved sidewalks, uneven surfaces/steps, and/or availability and quality of public restrooms. Flexibility, a sense of humor, enjoyment of group travel, and a willingness to accept cultural differences and local standards of amenities are essential components to the full appreciation of this trip. In late January, the weather is generally dry, with a slight chance of rain. Average daytime temperatures are in the mid-70s to mid-80s F. Evening temperatures can range from the mid-50s to mid-60s F. Complete pre-departure details will be sent to participants.

Air Arrangements & Transfers

There are two flights within the main tour and two flights within the extension that are included (at an estimated cost of $290 per person on the main tour and $250 per person on the extension) and must be purchased by the Field Museum Tours office. These flights will be booked for the entire group based on the dates indicated in the itineraries. International airfare from your home to Mumbai and returning from Delhi is not included. Transfers in India on your arrival and departure are included. Several carriers offer flights to India. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact our office first. We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.

Visas: India visa on arrival is now available. U.S. citizens seeking to enter India solely for tourist purposes, and who plan to stay no longer than 30 days, may apply for an electronic travel authorization at least four days prior to their arrival in lieu of applying for a tourist visa at an Indian embassy or consulate. Please visit the Indian government’s website for electronic travel authorization (https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html) for additional information regarding the eligibilities and requirements for this type of visa.

Cancellation Penalties: All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing. Cancellations received at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of five hundred dollars ($500) per person. Cancellations received between ninety (90) and one hundred twenty (120) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of two thousand dollars ($2,000) per person. Cancellations received ninety (90) days or less prior to departure are subject to a penalty of 100% of the tour cost. For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. An application will be sent with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.

Prices, itinerary, and leaders are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

About Field Museum Tours

Field Museum Tours offers Museum members and friends unique opportunities to join distinguished scientists and lecturers in remote locations. Based on over a century of Museum research around the world and drawing from our team of over 70 Ph.D. scientists, Field Museum Tours provides you with firsthand knowledge of environmental systems and human societies. The Field Museum Tours office reviews hundreds of proposals every year in order to develop a handful of exceptional study tour programs that are related to Museum collections, research, and public programs. We invite you to join other travelers like yourself who have a desire to travel and learn with Museum experts about the Earth and its peoples.

For questions and reservations, please contact us:

Field Museum Tours
P.O. Box 938, Walpole, NH 03608-0938
800-856-8951 - (toll) 603-756-4004 - Fax: 603-756-2922

Main Tour Pricing (Per Person)

| Double Occupancy (16-20 participants) | $11,295 |
| Single Supplement | $3,995 |

With fewer than 16 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.

Extension Pricing (Per Person)

| Double Occupancy (10-15 participants) | $1,545 |
| Double Occupancy (7-9 participants) | $1,745 |
| Single Supplement | $425 |

Single-room supplements will be charged when requested or required (limited availability).

Main Tour Prices Include:

- Field Museum study leaders and hosts Alaka Wali and Maria Pinto; plus guest lecturer at Ranthambore, Uma Ramakrishnan, and special guest experts such as Giles Tillotson at Jaipur’s City Palace Museum;
- Two flights within India (Delhi/Ahmedabad/Jaipur);
- Fifteen (15) nights’ accommodations in luxury hotels;
- All meals throughout the trip, including welcome and farewell dinners with Indian brand drinks;
- All excursions and entrance fees as per itinerary, with bottled water provided;
- Surface transportation by deluxe, air-conditioned motor coach;
- Services of a Professional Tour Manager;
- Services of expert English-speaking guides;
- Arrival and departure transfers and portage at the airports in India;
- All tips to porters, drivers, and guides;
- Still camera fees;
- Local taxes and service charges, Indian Government taxes and VAT;
- Comprehensive pre-departure information, including a suggested reading guide, travel guide, and packing list.

Extension Prices Include:

- Field Museum study leaders and hosts Alaka Wali and Maria Pinto throughout;
- Two flights within India (Delhi/Varanasi/Delhi);
- Two (2) nights’ accommodations in a luxury hotel plus a day room in Delhi on the last day;
- All meals throughout the extension;
- All excursions and entrance fees as per itinerary, with bottled water provided;
- Surface transportation by deluxe, air-conditioned motor coach;
- Services of a Professional Tour Manager;
- Services of an expert English-speaking guide;
- Transfers and portage at the airports in India;
- All tips to porters, drivers, and guide;
- Still camera fees;
- Local taxes and service charges, Indian Government taxes and VAT;

Main Tour and Extension Prices Do Not Include: International airfare; passport and visa fees; inoculation fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; tips to Tour Manager; personal tips; items of a personal nature, such as laundry; alcoholic or other beverages (except as noted above); taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour.

Payments: A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to EOS-Passenger Account-FM India 1/18. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure and must be by personal check only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published. Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions will be sent upon confirmation or upon request.