

TOUR 1

India: Jewels in the Crown

8 – 24 FEBRUARY 2020



'... a wonderful tour with a wide diversity of cultural activities and a fascinating collection of public and private gardens ... Our members will love this tour and the personal contacts and gardens really make for a very personal and special experience.'

*Lisa Tuck, National Executive Officer,
Australian Garden History Society.*

Highlights

A unique introduction to the wonderful highlights of India – surely, the most diverse, intriguing, beautiful, maddening, colourful, charming and bewildering country on earth! The tour was born from discussions with Aniket Bhagwat, the leading landscape architect in India following his wonderful presentations at our 2013 Conference.

Gardens, landscapes and flora provide key themes, but the tour is enriched by layers of complex history, art and cultures and is enhanced through access to private properties and collections. We aim for a comfortable, seamless tour with 4–5 star hotels to help ensure some luxuries at the end of daily touring with sanitation and illness issues eliminated.

Itinerary

Three nights in Dehli with 'Lutyens India', the first great Mughal Humayun garden mausoleum, Old Delhi with its colourful bazaars and Moslem, Sikh and Jain heritage. The Presidential Palace gardens, our beautiful local Lodi Gardens and choice private gardens. In Ahmedabad, to Mahatma Ghandi's Ashram, and a welcome by designer Aniket Bhagwat. Outstanding modern homes and gardens, architecture of Le Corbusier and an outstanding new art centre. Three nights in Jaipur (fabulous palace hotel) – in colourful Rajasthan with forts and palaces. To Agra – once capital of the Mughal Empire, its great Red Fort, Emperor Babur's earliest Ram Bagh garden, the mausoleum garden Taj Mahal at moonlight and again, at dawn's first light – the incomparable memorial by Shah Jahan to his beloved Mumtaz Mahal.

Then Khajuraho, with its unique temples and erotic sculptures, and Varanasi – the soul of India – with our hotel above the ghats, the peak of all religious sites in the Hindu world. And much, much more!

Terms

- For shared room: \$8,850 per person
- Single Supplement: \$2,840 per person

In summary: **Includes** all tour arrangements, accommodation, transport (internal flights, trains etc.), English speaking guide throughout, entry to museums, gardens and all properties listed within the tour, all gratuities (excluding the tour guide), taxes, etc.

Excluded: one meal per day, alcoholic drinks, insurance, visa fees, camera fees if applicable, and any unanticipated changes and circumstances beyond our control. For full and final details refer to the Itinerary.

Your Hosts

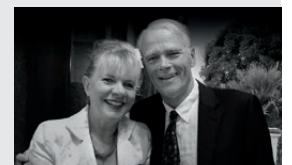
Warwick Forge (LL.B., M.B.A.) is tour leader for both tours. As a boy Warwick fell in love with India reading Rudyard Kipling and drove around India in 1966. His seven tours to India included a study tour of Mughal Gardens in Kashmir with Penelope Hobhouse. He has published many garden books, and was awarded the Centenary Medal for environmental contributions.

Co-tour leader **Susanne Forge** (Dip. Bus.) is an accountant, accomplished gardener and super all-rounder with a love of decorative arts enabling great shopping expeditions.

Sue and Warwick have pioneered garden themed tours to five countries in South America, led wonderful tours to India and Provence in 2017, and since 2002, convened Australian Landscape Conferences with brilliant international garden designers.

However, this tour is only possible due to the brilliant **Aniket Bhagwat**, who assists in planning and gaining access to various properties.

*Tour leaders
Susanne and
Warwick Forge*





Highlights

Sri Lanka has 2,500 years of continuous written history and was first occupied by the Portuguese in the 16th century, the Dutch in the 17th century, it became a British colony in 1815 and gained independence in 1948. With its rich history, we visit ancient cities, sculptures, temples, jungles, an elephant and other wildlife reserves, a tea plantation and much more.

We explore the work of Geoffrey Bawa (1919–2003), the wonderful Sri Lankan architect and garden designer, and principal force behind 'tropical modernism'. We visit a number of his buildings and gardens including his own country retreat, Lunaganga.

With the defeat of the Tamil Tigers in 2009, Sri Lanka is now peaceful and tourists are discovering its diverse landscapes, history and culture. Weather is tropical but greatly modified in those regions at altitude. The NE monsoon runs from October to January.

Itinerary

Those taking the India Tour will have a direct flight from Delhi to Colombo.

On arrival, we dine at the *Paradise Road Gallery Café*, former of offices of Geoffrey Bawa. Visit his celebrated *Lunaganga Estate* and lovely gardens. Then the *Colombo Cultural Triangle* (central plains), with ancient ruined temples, cities, national parks and glistening reservoirs. UNESCO World Heritage sites include the striking rock fortress of Sigiriya, Dambulla's Royal Rock Temple. Within this culturally rich area, we visit the Dambulla Caves and stay at the *Heritage Kandalama Hotel* by Geoffrey Bawa. At Sigiriya, the 'Lion Rock' rises sheer above the plains far below.

To Minneriya National Park for a jeep safari and herds of elephants, flocks of cormorants, stocks, toque macaque and sambar deer. At Polonnaruwa, a bullock cart ride and canoe trip, a small cookery demonstration and visit to the former ancient capital established by King Vijayabahu I, in 1070AD. We travel by *tuk tuk*s around the archaeological park with its many fine ruins including Gal Viharaya, with its four statues of Buddha carved out of rock.

En route to Kandy, a Spice garden and local touring including the Temple of the tooth (Dalada Maligawa) the Peradeniya Botanical gardens, a city stroll and a private Cultural Dance performance.

Terms

- For shared room: \$3,990 per person
- Single Supplement: \$970 per person

In summary: **Includes** all tour arrangements, accommodation, transport (internal flights, trains etc.), English speaking guide throughout, entry to museums, gardens and all properties listed within the tour, all gratuities (excluding the tour guide), taxes, etc.

Excluded: one meal per day, alcoholic drinks, insurance, visa fees, camera fees if applicable, and any unanticipated changes and circumstances beyond our control. For full and final details refer to the Itinerary.

Hosts

Tour leaders are Warwick and Susanne Forge. For personal details see overleaf.

Contact

For information about the India and Sri Lanka tours and to register your interest, contact:

Warwick Forge

Director, ALC Garden Tours
warwick@bloomings.com.au
m: 043 818 2801

For updates and further information, including future tours visit: www.landscapeconference.com/alc-tours

'Wonders of Portugal and Morocco' (2020)