

India & Nepal Tour

Delhi * Jaipur * Agra * Khajuraho * Varanasi * Kathmandu * Delhi

Skeleton Itinerary

DAY 01	ARRIVE DELHI	BY: INT. FLIGHT
DAY 02	DELHI	
DAY 03	DELHI - JAIPUR	BY: SURFACE
DAY 04	JAIPUR	
DAY 05	JAIPUR-FATEHPUR SIKRI-AGRA	BY: SURFACE
DAY 06	AGRA	
DAY 07	AGRA-JHANSI JHANSI-KHAJURAHO	BY: TRAIN BY: SURFACE
DAY 08	KHAJURAHO	
DAY 09	KHAJURAHO-VARANASI	BY: FLIGHT
DAY 10	VARANASI	
DAY 11	VARANASI-KATHMANDU	BY: FLIGHT
DAY 12	KATHMANDU	
DAY 13	KATHMANDU-DELHI	BY: FLIGHT
DAY 14	DEPART DELHI	BY: INTL. FLT.

*** END OF TOUR ***

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY – 01

ARRIVE DELHI

BY: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

Today you will arrive at Delhi's International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, a TWX representative will meet you as you EXIT the ARRIVALS TERMINAL building and transfer you to your hotel (**Standard check in time at Hotel is 1200 Hrs**).

India's capital and a major gateway to the country, contemporary **Delhi** is a bustling metropolis, which successfully combines in its folds - the ancient with the modern. Amidst the fast spiraling skyscrapers the remnants of a bygone time in the form of its many monuments stand as silent reminders to the region's ancient legacy. The first impressions for any visitor traveling in from the airport are of a spacious, garden city, tree-lined with a number of beautiful parks.

Overnight stay at the Hotel

Check in / out timing at hotels is 1200 hrs irrespective of any flight arrival or departure time. Check in time for Taj Hotels is 1400 Hrs

DAY – 02

DELHI

After buffet breakfast in the hotel, proceed for full day sightseeing tour of Delhi and Old Delhi



Tour starts with visit to Old Delhi - Old Delhi is a world all in its own. As you meander through the bustling streets of this Mughal nerve-centre of old, is difficult to imagine that way back in 1648, Emperor Shah Jahan's daughter Jahanara built up the area only to pander to her father's fetish for grandiose processions, Here you will see the **Jama Masjid**, built in 1650 AD, and one of the largest mosques in India. Drive through the fabled **Chandni Chowk** (literally, 'Silver Street'), once the most opulent perfume market of India, but now a bustling market, good for hunting down old and new silver and gold from jewellers whose forefathers served the emperors. Drive past the **Red Fort (closed on Mondays)**,

dating back as far as 1639-48 AD, and built by Emperor Shah Jahan, who also built the Taj Mahal. Visit **Raj Ghat** where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated following his assassination in 1948. Continue visit to India Gate.

Later lunch on your own

Post Lunch continue tour of the New Delhi - New Delhi was planned and built by the British in the 1920s and is characterized by Sir Edwin Lutyen's monumental architecture. You will visit **Humayun's Tomb**, aptly called the predecessor of the Taj Mahal because of its ornate Mughal style of architecture, later perfected in the Taj



Mahal. Continue drive to 12th century **Qutab Minar**, considered one of the most perfect towers in the world, measuring 72 meters high. Nearby, amidst the ruins of the Quwwat ul Islam Mosque stands the iron pillar, which is over 1500 years old and seemingly immune to rust. Drive through the Rajpath viewing the **government buildings, President's House, Parliament House and India Gate**.

Overnight stay at the Hotel

DAY – 03

DELHI / JAIPUR

Morning after buffet breakfast at the hotel drive to Jaipur (265 Kms, 05 Hrs)

Jaipur's past is never too far from hand. The city of victory, Jaipur presides over the fascinating desert state and its people: surrounded by rugged hills, each crowned by a formidable fort; and beautiful palaces, mansions and gardens dotted throughout its precincts. The palaces and forts of yesteryear that were witness to royal processions and splendour are now living monuments, accepted quite naturally into the lifestyles of the people of the "pink city". Except for the busy traffic of bicycles, cars and buses, little seems to have changed. There is a timeless quality to Jaipur's bazaars and its people. With its historical past, Jaipur revives legends of the ancient Rajputs. The dresses of the women and the turbans of the men add colour to this fascinating city.

Upon arrival check in at Hotel

Rest of the day at leisure

Overnight stay at the Hotel

DAY – 04

JAIPUR

After buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will be driven just outside Jaipur to the **ancient capital of Amber** to see the fabulous Amber Fort. Maharaja Mansingh, Mughal Emperor Akbar's most successful General, started the construction of Amber Fort in the 17th century. Before the City Palace was constructed in Jaipur, Amber was the seat of power. **An elephant / Jeep** will spare you the trouble of reaching up to the fortress (**Elephant ride is subject to availability**). Once on top, stroll through the sprawling complex of courtyards and halls. Many of the rooms have delightful wall paintings, with precious stones and mirrors inlaid in the walls.



Most fascinating, perhaps, is the Sheesh Mahal (hall of mirrors) where a single lamplight is reflected in the many mirrors, lighting up the room. Come back to your hotel after your excursion.

In the afternoon you will proceed for **city tour of Jaipur**.



Among the highlights to be seen while touring Jaipur include the **City Palace**, which is an overwhelming complex of exquisite palaces, gardens and courtyards, decorative art and carved doorways. The palace museum houses collections of rare manuscripts, armoury, costumes, carpets and miniature paintings. Walk to the adjacent **Jantar Mantar or Astronomical Observatory** made by the Maharaja of Jaipur, built in 1726 and is one of the five such astronomical wonders built by Sawai Jai Singh and makes accurate predictions even to this day.

You will stop and see the '**Palace of Winds**', otherwise known as Hawa Mahal. It is really an elaborate facade behind which the ladies of the court used to watch the daily goings on in the street below. It is extremely intricate in its pink sandstone carving. The cool wind blows through its facade of windows and latticed screens through which the queens of the court once viewed the streets of the city. You will also have the opportunity to wander about the local markets.

Return to your hotel after the sightseeing tour.

Overnight stay at the Hotel

DAY – 05

JAIPUR / FATEHPUR SIKRI / AGRA

After buffet breakfast in the hotel you will be driven from Agra to Jaipur (250 Kms / 06 Hrs). Enroute your drive to Jaipur, you will visit Fatehpur Sikri.

Fatehpur Sikri - the deserted red sandstone city, built by the Great Mughal Emperor Akbar as his capital and palace in the late 16th century. Fatehpur Sikri (the City of Victory) was the capital of the Mughal Empire for only some 10 years. It was abandoned soon after it was built when the local wells went dry and it remains today in much the same condition that it was over 300 years ago. It is complete with palaces and mosques and used to be a town larger than London when it was originally constructed.



Later this afternoon you will arrive into Agra & check in at your hotel.

Agra in terms of ambiance is still associated with its Mughal period. The Mughals besides being great rulers were also great builders and they preserved their best architectural wonders for Agra & its neighborhood. It has many wonderful monuments and the Taj Mahal, the greatest of them all, is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture at its best. The massive but elegant Agra Fort, the delicate artistry of Itmad-ud-daulah's tomb, the magnificent Taj and Akbar's deserted capital, Fatehpur Sikri, are each unique and outstanding.

Upon arrival check in at Hotel

Overnight stay at the Hotel

DAY – 06

AGRA

Morning visit to the **Taj Mahal (closed on Fridays)**. The Taj Mahal is everything that has been said about it and more. Taking 22 years and 20,000 men to build, the white marble was quarried 200 miles away and was transported to the site by a fleet of 1000 elephants. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an expression of his love for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, in mid 17th century, the Taj Mahal is truly one of the wonders of the world. Though the Taj appears to be amazingly perfect from almost any angle, it is the close-up marble inlay work, which is really astounding. You will have ample time to view and be mesmerized by this outstanding piece of architecture.



Further drive to **Red Fort or Agra Fort** - the seat and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire under successive generations. This was the seat of Mughal rule and administration and the present structure owes its origins to Akbar who erected the walls and gates and the first buildings on the eastern banks of Yamuna River. Shah Jehan added the impressive quarters and the mosque while Aurangzeb added the outer ramparts. Visit its Hall of Public Audience and its Royal Pavilions.

Rest of the day at leisure

Overnight stay at the Hotel

DAY – 07

AGRA / JHANSI / KHAJURAHO

In time transfer to the railway station to board train for Jhansi

Depart: Agra
Arrive: Jhansi

at: 0817 Hrs
at: 1043 Hrs

By: BHOPAL SHATABDI

On arrival at Jhansi railway station; transfer by road to Khajuraho en-route visiting Orchha (approximately 05 hours drive including stops)

Orchha's grandeur has been captured in stone and frozen in time and is a rich legacy of the ages. In this medieval city, the hand of time has rested lightly. The palaces and the temples built by its Bundela rulers in the 16th and 17th Century retain much of their pristine perfection. Jahangir Mahal, a tiered palace, has a spectacular view of soaring temple spires and cenotaphs.



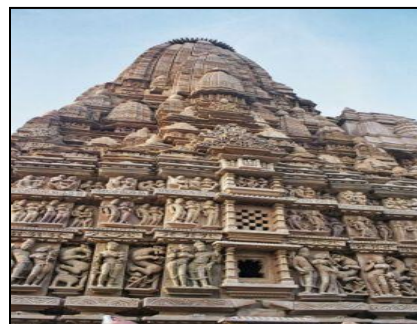
On arrival in Khajuraho; proceed for check-in at Hotel.

Overnight stay at the Hotel

DAY – 08

KHAJURAHO

Khajuraho - The city was once the original capital of the Chandela Rajputs, a Hindu dynasty that ruled this part of India from the 10th to the 12th centuries. The Khajuraho temples were built over a span of a hundred years, from 950 to 1050. The Chandela capital was moved to Mahoba after this time, but Khajuraho continued to remain the important destination. The whole area was enclosed by a wall with eight gates, each flanked by two golden palm trees. There were originally over 80 Hindu temples, of which only 22 now stand in a reasonable state of preservation, scattered over an area of about 8 square miles (21 km). Unlike other cultural centers of North India, the temples of Khajuraho never underwent massive destruction and a number of them have survived. They are fine examples of Indian architectural styles that have gained popularity due to their salacious depiction of the traditional way of life during medieval times. They were rediscovered during the late 19th century and the jungles had taken a toll on some of the monuments.



Morning proceed for sightseeing tour of Eastern and Western Group of Temples



Visit the world famous Khajuraho Temples, built by the Chandela kings between 950 AD and 1050 AD. These temples became famous for their exquisite carving and erotic sculptures. The sculptures, which

were rediscovered by an English soldier in 1839, are said to portray the rite of creation in which both body and soul are involved. Of the original 85 temples, only 22 now survive. The most important are the Chaunset Yogini Temple dedicated to Goddess Kali, the Mahadev Temple, the Chitragupta or Bharatji Temple with its lovely image of 11-headed Vishnu, the Vishvanath and Nandi Temples, the Lakshmana Temple and Kandaria Mahadev Temple, which is the largest, being dedicated to Shiva.

Afternoon at leisure

Overnight stay at the Hotel

DAY – 09

KHAJURAHO / VARANASI

Morning at leisure (Hotel check-out at 1200 hours)

In time transfer to the airport to board flight for Varanasi

Depart: Khajuraho at: 1330 Hrs By: 9W-724 (Jet Airways flight)
Arrive: Varanasi at: 1410 Hrs

Varanasi, also commonly known as Benaras, is the oldest living city in the world. It is situated on the banks of holy river Ganges. The culture of Varanasi is closely associated with the river Ganges and the river's religious importance. People often refer to Varanasi as "the city of temples," "the holy city of India," "the religious capital of India," "the city of lights," "the city of learning" and the "culture capital of India". American writer Mark Twain wrote, "*Benares is older than history, older than tradition, older even than legend, and looks twice as old as all of them put together.*"

Upon arrival you will be met and assisted by TWX representative at the airport and transferred to your Hotel

Overnight stay at the Hotel

DAY – 10

VARANASI

Early morning transfer to the river Ghat for the **boat ride on the sacred river Ganges** to see the cremation ghats and witness the living traditions of one of the world's oldest and most important religions. For you to appreciate this remarkable city, we'll transfer you to the banks of the River Ganges before the sun rises. Board a boat with your guide and proceed to the middle of the river, where at sunrise the sight unfolds before you. While walking down visit **Vishwanath Temple (foreigners entry restricted inside the temple)** – Dedicated to Lord Shiva, this temple is the

most sacred shrine in Varanasi. The original temple was destroyed by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb which was later restored by Rani Ahilyabai of India in 18th century and **Durga Temple** – also referred as Monkey Temple for the large number of monkeys in the temple complex.

Later excursion to **Sarnath** where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon after enlightenment and attained nirvana

Overnight stay at the Hotel

DAY – 11

VARANASI / KATHMANDU

Morning after breakfast; transfer to Varanasi airport to board Indian Airlines flight

Flight IC-751 for Varanasi – Kathmandu sectors **(1310/1420 Hours)**

On arrival at Kathmandu airport; transfer to Hotel

Kathmandu is the capital and largest city of Nepal. It is enriched with temples more than homes and festivals exceeding the number of days in a year. The whole valley with its seven heritage sites has been enlisted in cultural World Heritage Site list. The place, which blends cultural vigor with modern facilities possible on earth is place liked by tourists been here. The place has more to offer and it is not only administrative capital of the country but to the fullest extend capital of traditional culture and physical resources. Three Durbar Squares - Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur, Pashupatinath, Boudhanath and Swoyambhunath are the places most revered by the Kathmanduities and whole world.

Rest of day at leisure

Overnight stay at the Hotel

DAY – 12

KATHMANDU

Morning after breakfast; proceed to visit Pashupatinath



Pashupatinath - located 3 Kms northwest of Kathmandu it is a Hindu temple, dedicated to a manifestation of Shiva called Pashupati (Lord of Animals). It attracts thousands of pilgrims each year and has become well known far beyond the Kathmandu Valley. The temple is barred to non-Hindus, but a good view of the temple compound's inner courtyard can be had from Shleshmantak hill on the opposite (eastern) bank of the Bagmati River.



Also visit **Boudhanath** - one of the largest stupas in South Asia is located at Boudhanath, 5 Kms east of the center of Kathmandu. It is the focal point for Tibetan Buddhism in Nepal. It is considered to be one of the most important Tibetan Buddhism monuments outside of Tibet. It is believed to date to the 5th century. It is known to Tibetans as Chorten Chempa or the "Great Stupa". There are over 35 gompas in the area of the stupa. There is an entire village around the stupa inhabited mainly by Tibetans.

Afternoon visit Bhadgaon (Bhaktapur) – 14 Kms east to Kathmandu it is situated at an altitude of 1,401 mts it covers an area of four square miles. Bhaktapur or "the City of Devotees" still retains the medieval charm and visitors to this ancient town are treated with myriad wonders of cultural and artistic achievements. The past glory of the Malla rulers continues to be reflected at the Durbar Square. Pottery and weaving are its traditional industries.

Evening at leisure

Overnight stay at the Hotel

DAY – 13 **KATHMANDU / DELHI**

Morning at leisure (Hotel check-out at 1200 hours)

Later in time transfer to Kathmandu airport to board flight

Depart: Kathmandu **at: 1545 Hrs** **By: 9W-261 (Jet Airways flight)**
Arrive: Delhi **at: 1715 Hrs**

On arrival in Delhi transfer to Hotel

Overnight stay at the Hotel

DAY – 14 **DEPART DELHI**

Morning in time transfer to New Delhi International airport to board flight for onward destination (*Flight details to be advised*)

*****End of Tour*****