



ROOTS

Delhi * Varanasi* Delhi* Agra * Jaipur * Haridwar * Rishikesh * Bangalore *
Puttaparthi * Mysore * Goa * Mumbai

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 01 ARRIVE DELHI

Today you will arrive at Delhi's International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, a representative will meet you as you EXIT the ARRIVALS TERMINAL building and transfer you to your hotel.

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

DAY 02 IN 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 at hotel.

DAY 03

DELHI – VARANASI

BY FLIGHT

After buffet breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport to connect flight for Varanasi . On arrival transfer to the hotel.

Varanasi also commonly known as Benares is a city situated on the banks of the river Ganga in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. It is regarded holy by Hindus, Buddhists and Jains, and is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world.

The culture of Varanasi is closely associated with the river Ganges and the river's religious importance. The city has been a cultural and religious center in northern India for several thousand years

Afternoon proceed for excursion to Sarnath, 13 kms. East of Varanasi, is one of the Buddhism's major centers of India. After attaining enlightenment, the Buddha came to Sarnath where he gave his first sermon. Visit the deer park and the museum (Closed on all Fridays) and later back to Varanasi .

Evening proceed to the Ghat to witness the Aarti ceremony.

Overnight stay at hotel.



DAY 04

VARANASI – DELHI DELHI - AGRA

BY FLIGHT BY SURFACE



Early morning proceed for the boat tour on River Ganges, where you will witness daily rituals performed by local people & observe the way of life of pilgrims by the Ghats. Also enjoy the walking tour in the old part of the city. Return back to hotel for breakfast. Later proceed for the short tour of the city.

In the afternoon transfer to airport to board your flight for Delhi.

Upon arrival transfer by surface to Agra. 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 neighbourhood. 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 Itimad-ud-daulah's tomb, the magnificent Taj and Akbar's deserted capital, Fatehpur Sikri, are each unique and outstanding.

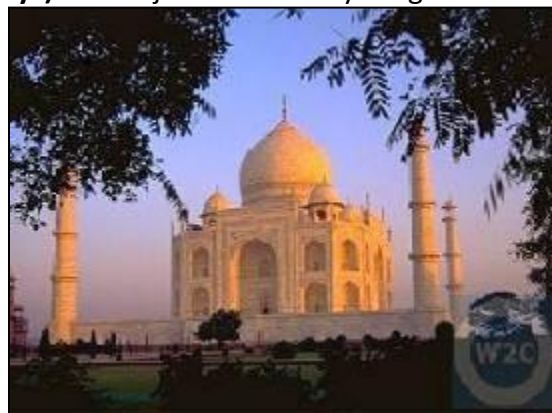
Upon arrival proceed to check in at your hotel.

DAY 05

IN AGRA

After buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will proceed for the sightseeing tour of Agra.

You will first visit 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.





Continue for Lunch at Local Restaurant .
Continue your 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.



Overnight in Agra.

DAY 06 AGRA – FATEHPUR SIKRI - JAIPUR BY: SURFACE

Morning after breakfast, you will be driven to Jaipur (265 KMS / 5 Hours) enroute visiting 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.

Arrive into Jaipur & check in at your hotel.

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.

Overnight at the hotel

DAY 07 IN 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 08

JAIPUR – DELHI

BY SURFACE

After buffet breakfast, proceed by surface to Delhi. On arrival transfer to the hotel.

Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 09

DELHI- HARIDWAR HARIDWAR-RISHIKESH

BY: TRAIN

BY: SURFACE In time transfer

to the railway station to connect train Shatabdi Express (0650/1125 hrs) to Haridwar. On arrival you will be driven to Rishikesh.

Arrive Rishikesh and check-in at the hotel.

Rishikesh represents the Gateway to the Himalayas in the Tehri-Garhwal region of Uttaranchal. It abounds in natural splendor. The spectacle of the Ganga rushing through the Himalayan foothills is an awesome sight. Several temples dot the banks of the Ganga at Rishikesh.



Rishikesh is located at a height of about 1360 feet above sea level. It is believed that several yogis and sages lived and practiced penance here. Rishikesh represents the site where Vishnu vanquished the demon Madhu.

Overnight at the hotel.



DAY 10 IN RISHIKESH

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning visit Rishikesh.

Later proceed to Haridwar to witness evening Aarti.

Return to Rishkesh for an overnight stay.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 11 RISHIKESH – HARIDWAR BY: SURFACE
HARIDWAR – DELHI BY: TRAIN
DELHI – BANGALORE BY: FLIGHT

Early morning transfer to the Haridwar railway station to connect train Jan Shatabdi express (0620/1115 hrs) to Delhi. On arrival in Delhi transfer to the airport to connect flight to Bangalore. Arrive Bangalore and transfer to the hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 12 BANGALORE – PUTTAPARTHI BY: SURFACE

Morning after breakfast proceed by surface to Puttaparthi. (150 kms / 03 hrs). On arrival check-in at the hotel.

Puttaparthi, just southeast of Dharmavaram in Andhra Pradesh, is known mainly for Prasanthi Nilayam, the ashram of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Sai Baba's followers are predominantly Indian but he also has many Western followers. When he celebrated his 60th birthday in 1985, 400,000 people came to his ashram. Known as the Abode of the Highest Peace, it is spacious and beautiful with good food and accommodation but accommodation is available only for families and those over the age of 25.

Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 13 IN PUTTAPARTHI

Breakfast at the hotel. Day at leisure.

Overnight at the hotel.



DAY 14 **PUTTAPARTHI -MYSORE** **BY: SURFACE**

Morning after breakfast proceed by surface to Mysore (240 kms / 06 hrs).

Mysore, once the capital of the Wodeyar kingdom, is today the second largest city in Karnataka and one of the finest in southern India. Small, easygoing, famous for its silks and sandalwood, it is a city of fine gardens, tree-lined boulevards, art galleries and an intriguing palace. Mysore's ten day Dasara festival in September-October is still celebrated with medieval pageantry.

Later take a half-day city tour of Mysore visiting the Maharaja's palace built in 1911-12. The palace harmoniously synthesizes the Hindu and the Saracenic styles of architecture with archways, domes, turrets, colonnades and sculptures, which are truly magnificent. Visit the art gallery and drive up to the 1062 m high Chamundi hill to see the Chamundeshwari temple with a panoramic view of Mysore. On your way back, see the 5 m high Nandi Bull carved out of solid rock in 1659.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 15 **MYSORE-BANGALORE** **BY: SURFACE**
BANGALORE-GOA **BY: FLIGHT**

Morning after breakfast proceed by surface to Bangalore airport by surface (140 kms / 03 hrs) to connect flight for Goa. On arrival in Goa transfer to the hotel.

The former Portuguese enclave of Goa, one of India's gems, has been popular with tourists for many years with its magnificent palm-fringed beaches and renowned "travelers' scene". It has much more to offer than sun, sand and sea. Goa has a character quite distinct from the rest of India, and the people are fun-loving and relaxed, having retained some of the gaiety of the Portuguese.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 16 **IN GOA**

Breakfast at the hotel. Take a half day tour of Goa, starting from the slopes of Altinho hill for a breathtaking view of Panjim and river Mandovi. Drive to Donapaula for a view of India's largest natural harbour, Marmagoa. Then on to Old Goa, the spiritual heart of Portuguese Goa to visit Basilica of Bom Jesus wherein is enshrined the body of St. Francis Xavier in an ornate silver casket. Also visit St. Cathedral, the biggest



Church in the East, St. Catejan built like St Peter's of Rome, the Church of Lady Rosary and St. Monica.

Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 17 GOA-MUMBAI BY: FLIGHT

Breakfast at the hotel. In time transfer to the airport to connect flight to Mumbai.

Bombay, or Mumbai, is the capital of Maharashtra and the economic powerhouse of India. It's the fastest moving, most affluent and the most industrialized city in India. Yet, once upon a time, Bombay was nothing more than a group of low-lying, swampy and malarial mud flats presented to the British by its Portuguese occupiers as a wedding gift in 1661.

Afternoon half day city tour, visit the Prince of Wales Museum built in grand Indo Saracenic style, drive past Marine Drive, Mumbai's most popular seaside promenade, and see the Kamla Nehru Park and Hanging Gardens on the slopes of the Malabar hills, offering a nice view of the marine lines and the Chowpatty beach. Visit the Jain temple, Mani Bhawan where Mahatma Gandhi used to stay, and the Dhobi Ghat. Also, drive past the Flora Fountain, the colourful Crawford Market and Victoria Terminus train station.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 18 IN MUMBAI

Breakfast at the hotel. Full day at leisure.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 19 DEPART MUMBAI

In time transfer to the airport to connect flight for onward destination.

***** END OF TOUR *****