

Taj & The Ganges



Itinerary

DAY 01: ARRIVAL >> DELHI

Today you will arrive at Delhi's International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, our 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).** Overnight stay at the Hotel

Value add – Traditional Welcome Aarti Tikka and Garlanding

DAY 02: DELHI

After breakfast, we will proceed to visit the famous Visit the imperial avenue of **Rajpath**, **India Gate**, **Parliament House**, **Central Secretariat**, **President's House**, & **Qutub Minar**. **Visit the Dohbi Ghat- The Open Air Laundry**.

Travel like the locals and take a metro to Old Delhi. Now proceed towards for a visit of **Jama Masjid (mosque)** and explore Old Delhi through a heritage walk in narrow lanes of old part like the Kenari Bazaar (wedding market), Spice Market, visit the Sikh Temple Gurudwara Seesganj. You will also try a local Snack tasting or see how the India Tea is prepared. Overnight stay at the Hotel.

<u>Value Add – Heritage Walk in Old Delhi and Local Snack Tasting / Prepration of Indian Tea. (Chai) and</u> <u>Experience a ride in Delhi Metro</u>

DAY 03: DELHI / SHAHPURA / JAIPUR (250 KMS / 6 HRS)

After breakfast, we will proceed to **Jaipur enroute visiting Sahapura Village**, Arrive Shahpura and visit the local market, see how the local bangles are made, visit a local school and interact with the locals and kids.

Later Have a Lunch at the 300 year Old Shahpuara haveli.

Later proceed to Jaipur, Capital of Rajasthan also known as "PINK CITY", true to its name, the old parts of Jaipur is painted in the mellow pink colour which glows in the sunset and leaves you intoxicated. Arrival at Jaipur & transfer to the hotel. Evening free at leisure. Overnight stay at the Hotel.

Value add – Shahpura Vilage visit and lunch at a 300 year Old Residence of the Royal Family.

DAY 04: JAIPUR

After breakfast, we will proceed to visit the Amber Fort, to reach there we will take an elephant ride in true maharaja style **(Subject to availability)**. Inside the fort you can visit 15th century's constructed various palaces. After the visit proceed to Elephant Village (Haathi Gaon) a home to many elephants from in and around Jaipur.

Later we will proceed to visit **City palace**, where you will find rare manuscripts, swords, and painting are on display. Than visit 17th century's an astronomical observatory **"Jantar-Mantar"**, which is the largest and best preserved. After that enjoy the colourful bazaars around **Hawa Mahal** and admire the palace too.

Watch a Bollywood blockbuster with the locals and soak in the atmosphere. After the movie, Experience Jaipur by night in a Tuk Tuk.

Overnight stay at the Hotel.

Value add – Visit to Elephant village and Indian Movie at Rajmandir and Jaipur by night in a Tuk Tuk

DAY 05: JAIPUR / ABHANERI / FATEHPUR SIKRI / AGRA (250 kms / 6 hrs approx)

After breakfast we will proceed to Agra enroute visiting Abhaneri Stepwell and later stop at UNESCO World Heritage red sandstone complex of **Fatehpur Sikri** built in 1569 by Emperor Akbar and abandoned 15 years

later due to water scarcity. Visit Buland Darwaza, Diwan-e-aam, diwan-e-khas. Then continue to Agra. Arrival & transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay at the Hotel

Value Add – Abhaneri Stepwell visit

DAY 06: AGRA

After breakfast visit to the **Taj Mahal (closed on Fridays).** Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an expression of his love for his wife Mumtaz Mahal. Taj Mahal is truly one of the wonders of the world. **Optional** – **Mughal Heritage walk of Kachpura.** Later visit of Red Fort or Agra Fort - Built by the Emperor Akbar between 1565 and 1573. End the tour with a visit to Mother Teresa's Misionaries of Charity.

In the evening cooking demo with Dinner with the local family.

Overnight at a local House.

<u>Value add – Optional Mughal heritage walk .. Cooking demo with a Dinner with a local family. . Stay with a</u> <u>Local Family in a home stay</u>

DAY 07: AGRA / JHANSI (TRAIN) / ORCHHA / KHAJURAHO (175 kms / 4.5 hrs)

In time transfer to the railway station to board train for Jhansi. Arrival at Jhansi & our representative will assist you. Then drive towards Khajuraho enroute visiting **Orchha Fort** complex. It consists of three palaces namely -Jehangir Mahal, Raj Mahal & Rai Parveen Mahal. Continue towards Khajuraho. Arrival & transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay at the Hotel.

DAY 08: KHAJURAHO → VARANASI

After breakfast proceed to visit the **exotic temples of Khajuraho**. Visit the temples of Khajuraho, world famous for its erotic sculptures that present a picture of eternal, spiritual and physical love. Later transfer to the airport to catch the flight for Varanasi. Arrival & transfer to the hotel. Witness the Evening Aarti by Boat. Overnight stay at the Hotel.

Value add - Witness the Evening Aarti by Boat.

DAY 09: VARANASI

Early morning we will go to the banks of the river Ganges. **Take blessings from the local priest** and then a boat ride and enjoy the holy atmosphere as hundreds of pilgrims come here every day to take the holy dip as the sun rises. After that we will pass along the narrow allies of the city and 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.

Afternoon you will proceed to Lamhi Village, walking tour of the village will take you to the home of famous Indian writer Munshi Prem Chand, visit the Cow Shelter, visit local school and also visit the Akhara- famous for the traditional Indian Kushti (wrestling). Overnight stay at the Hotel.

<u>Valu add – Blessings from the Priest . Optional – Yoga session at Ganga Ghat . Visit to Limhi Village</u>

DAY 10: VARANASI → DELHI → DEPARTURE

In time transfer to airport to board flight for Delhi onward journey. Upon arrival transfer to international airport to board flight for onward journey

End of the Services