

Classical India





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DELHI – JAIPUR – AGRA – KHAJURAHO – VARANASI - DELHI



Sketch Itinerary

DAY 01:	ARRIVE DELHI	BY: AN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT
DAY 02:	IN DELHI	
DAY 03:	DELHI – JAIPUR	BY: SURFACE
DAY 04:	IN JAIPUR	
DAY 05:	JAIPUR - AGRA	BY: SURFACE
DAY 06:	AGRA	
DAY 07:	AGRA - KHAJURAHO	
DAY 08:	KHAJURAHO – VARANASI	BY: FLIGHT
DAY 09:	VARANASI	
DAY 10:	VARANASI – DELHI	BY: FLIGHT
	DEPART DELHI	BY: AN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT



Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1

ARRIVE DELHI

By: An International Flight

Arrive in Delhi. Following Customs, Immigration formalities and baggage collection, our Airport Representative will meet you outside the Arrival Hall to transfer you to the hotel.



DAY 2

IN DELHI

We will be exploring Old Delhi in the morning today.

In the morning walk through the charming quarter of Old Delhi, experiencing the variety of street food that Old Delhi is famous for. Walking through the local bazaar capture the sights of the mysterious structures, the intersecting wires, the street animals and much more. Let the aroma of the spice market fill up your senses. Old Delhi Bazaar has colourful and interesting street food and is crowned with the oldest shops with many world originated delicacies. You will be encouraged to try few of the local delicacies from careful selected shops. The area is also home to several small temples, shrines, old mosques and protected monument sites. Cows wander the streets, small dharamshalas (rest-houses) and pyau's (water-stations) attest to the pious contributions of local merchants.

This afternoon, continue your exploration of Delhi to the Qutab Minar along with a friend of Trek Nirvana. Qutab Minar is the tallest Minar (tower) in India with a height of 73 metres from the ground level. It is made of red sandstone and marble with a total of 379 steps in the staircase. It has a base diameter of 14.3 metres, which narrows to 2.7 metres at the top. Construction was started in 1192 AD by Qutb-ud-din Aibak and was carried on by his successor, Iltutmish. In 1368, Firoz Shah Tughlaq constructed the fifth and the last storey. It is surrounded by several other ancient and medieval structures and ruins, collectively known as the Qutab complex.



DAY 3

DELHI – JAIPUR

By: Surface – 280 kms / 5h30 drive

In the morning we will drive you to Jaipur. Upon arrival check in to your hotel.



DAY 4

IN JAIPUR

Proceed for an excursion to Amber Fort in the morning today. Jaipur's Maharaja Man Singh, Mughal Emperor Akbar's most successful General, started constructing Amber Fort in the 17th century. Before the City Palace was constructed in Jaipur, Amber was the seat of power. The Fort is surrounded by fortified battlements and overlooks the Moat Lake. Ruins and remains are spread over the Aravali hills and sprawling crenulated walls lattice the surrounding area. (Climb up and later descend the Fort using local Jeeps).

While returning to the city from Amber Fort, we will have a photo-stop at Hawa Mahal (the Palace of Winds). 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.

Later, continue to visit the City Palace Museum, 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. Later walk up to Jantar Mantar (the Royal Astronomical Observatory) – the most famous of five observatories built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh in India. Jai Singh was a great admirer of progresses and research made in the fields of science and technology, but he was passionate about astronomy.

Late in the afternoon we have arranged an interesting experience for you which will give you an opportunity to observe the local life closely.



Jaipur is widely considered by many as the craft capital of India. Since 1727, royal families and nobles have purchased goods here created by the craftsmen and artisans whose traditional techniques are still used today. Get to know the community settlement of Jaipur in regards to its art

& craft. On this interesting walk with your guide, you'll see these craftsmen busy in their workshops in the oldest parts of the Pink City. They'll be selling on fine forms of local art, such as embroidery, gota work, kinari, grouped under the name of KATLA, a wholesale market for textiles. Meet sellers for wedding cards, packagers for stones, sugar product merchants. You'll also have the opportunity to mingle with locals whilst sampling some of the area's culinary delights. Enjoy kulfi, milk cake, pickles, samosa, lassi and sweets from some of the city's most popular street food vendors to try along the way.



DAY 5

JAIPUR - AGRA

By: Surface - 245 km / 5h30 drive

Today we will drive you to Agra. Upon arrival check in to your hotel.

In the afternoon take you for an interesting walk across the river to see some forgotten monuments.

Later cross the Yamuna river and there is more than what any tour operator or guide book will tell you. Solitary corner turrets, ruined pavilions, Tombs, Mughal Pleasure Gardens and whole set of smiling people who call Agra their home. You will visit some of the lesser known river front monuments such as the Rambagh, a pleasure garden built by the first Mughal Babar, the Gyarah Sidi (11 Steps) that helped the early Mughals study star constellations and the Itimad-ud-Daulah, all rare remnant of pre-Taj Architecture. It ends with a visit to Mehtab Bagh located right opposite Taj Mahal across the river to watch the magnificent monument during sunset.

Return to the hotel and relax.



DAY 6

IN AGRA

This morning proceed for a sightseeing tour of Agra. Start with a visit to Taj Mahal (closed on Fridays). Enjoy a short ride on a Tonga (horse-driven carriage) from the parking area to gate of Hotel Oberoi Amarvilas, beyond which we will have to take the battery operated vehicle till the gate of the monument which is run by the Government authorities.

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 astounding. You will have ample time to view and be mesmerized by this outstanding piece of architecture.

In the afternoon we will take you for a walk in Old Agra.

Old Agra: The Road Not Taken - Very few travelers ever visit the older part of Agra what was once an important trading center of the Imperial capital of the Mughals known for its abundant consumption of commodities and giving gifts on a large scale. An early seventeenth century Persian poem translated Persian scholar Sunil Sharma talks about the flourishing city of Agra: "...the entire capital from seas and mines is put in the shop of one merchant. if there is a buyer, a hundred caravan- loads come out of one shop of his." After your tour of the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort; we will take a Rickshaw or Tonga ride to Old Agra to explore hidden alleys. As you enter the lanes of Old Agra you will get to peep inside shops, temples and lives of people to relive the life and times of a city that has an enduring history that predates and goes beyond the glorious era of the Taj Mahal, where it was a prosperous mercantile town during late-Mughal and days of the British Raj



DAY 7

AGRA – KHAJURAHO
JHANSI – KHAJURAHO

By: Shatabdi Express (0810/1025 hrs)
By: Surface (180 KM/+/-04 hrs)

Early morning, we will transfer you to the railway station to board train for Jhansi. On arrival at Jhansi station you will be met and transferred to Khajuraho stopping en-route at Orchha. Pass by small villages and fields plowed by ox carts, in time arriving at the 17th-century Orchha Palace and its group of Hindu temples.

After the visit, continue drive to Khajuraho and upon arrival check in for your stay.

Khajuraho was built by the Chandela dynasty, which rose to power in Central India between the 10th and 11th centuries and is home to some 25 odd temples depicting the different facets of life, including the erotic. These erotic carvings on some panels have given rise to much speculation since Khajuraho's rediscovery by a British officer in 1838. To preserve it for posterity, Khajuraho has been declared a World Heritage Site and is among the prominent destinations on the world tourism map.



DAY 08

KHAJURAHO – VARANASI

By Flight

Early morning, you will proceed for visit to the western and eastern group of temples. Among the western group of temples, the most famous is the Kandariya Mahadev temple, 32 meters high with a fantastic range of sculptures including sensuous themes. Other temples include the Chaunsat Yogini, which is a granite temple, the Devi Jagdambe temple dedicated to the Mother Goddess, the Chitragupta temple, dedicated to Surya the Sun God, etc.

Later, we will transfer you to the airport to board the flight to Varanasi. Assistance on arrival and transfer to the hotel. On arrival, check in for your stay.

In the evening, visit the Ghats to see the illuminated Ganga Aarti ceremony – an experience of a lifetime. The Ganga Aarti is a spectacular sight. Hundreds throng to the ghats to participate in this ceremony. Offerings of lamps and flowers are made to the river immediately following this ceremony and it is a moving sight to watch hundreds of miniature lamps float along the river. First the blazing camphor lamp and then the many flamed aarti lamps are raised high and then arched back to the water, the dark river reflecting the golden flames as Ganges accepts the worship. It is the Ganges that gives Varanasi its spiritual resonance.

The 'eternal city', Varanasi or Benares, is one of the most important pilgrimage sites in India, and the Ganges, which flows through the city, is believed to have the power to wash away the sins of mortals. For the Satpious Hindu, the city has always been a special place, and it is considered a particularly auspicious place to die, ensuring an instant routing to Heaven.



DAY 09

IN VARANASI

Early in the morning, take a boat ride in the holy Ganges River. At sunrise, the Hindu faithful flock to the ghats (riverbanks) to perform rituals. While walking back to the parking area, observe the tiny temples located on each side of the narrow streets.

During the day, an expert will take you for a walk through the narrow lanes of Varanasi that will give you a closer look into the lives of the local people. Winding through the streets and popping out onto the riverside will give you an insider's look at the symbiotic life of the riverside people of Varanasi. Eventually you will end up on Bengali Tola, the street of the Bengalis, visiting hidden Mother Goddess Kali shrines and the vistas of life along the riverside. The tour ends at the historic ritual-bathing site called Dasashwamedh, the ten-horse sacrifice ghat. Bengalis migrated to Varanasi for hundreds of years and eventually a settlement of riverside priests and shopkeepers sprung up.

In the afternoon, proceed for an excursion to Sarnath, a major Buddhist pilgrimage centre in India. After achieving enlightenment at Bodhgaya, Buddha, The Awakened One, delivered his first sermon here. We know this time in history as the "*Dharmachakrapravartana*" or "turning of the wheel of law". It was here in the Deer Park where The Buddha initiated his first five disciples into Buddhist monkhood.

Return to your hotel for overnight stay.



DAY 10

VARANASI – DELHI DEPARTURE

By: Flight

This morning has been kept free for you to do shopping in the city....!

In the afternoon we will transfer you to the airport to take a flight back to Delhi.
On arrival in Delhi, you will be transferred to the International terminal to board your flight for onward journey.

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



ROMANCING THE TAJ 09 nights tour |

COST PROPOSAL

CITY	HOTEL	ROOM CATEGORY	NIGHTS
Delhi	Crown Plaza New Delhi	Superior Room	02
Jaipur	Sarovar Premiere	Superior Room	02
Agra	Crystal Sarovar Premiere	Deluxe Room	02
Khajuraho	Radisson	Deluxe Room	01
Varanasi	Rivatas by Ideal	Deluxe Room	02

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

THE TOUR COSTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

Accommodation

- 09 night accommodation on twin sharing at the hotels mentioned above or similar.
- Breakfast on all days.
- All other meals on direct payment basis.
- Note: please note above meals do not include any alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages.

Transportation

- All transportation services using Air-conditioned Toyota Innova Car (guests allowed: 02).

Others

- Monument Entrance Fees (one time entry only) as per the detailed the itinerary.
- Services of English speaking Local Guides for sightseeing tours / excursions mentioned in the itinerary.

Trek Nirvana Specials :-

- 01 Heritage Walk in the evening in Jaipur - “Evening Bazaar, Cuisine & Crafts of Old Jaipur”, with a local Expert.
- 01 Half day tour in Agra to see the lesser known monuments–Itimad-ud-Daulah.
- 01 river boat cruise in Varanasi
- 01 Walk with an expert in Varanasi
- Assistance by our Representatives during Airport / Railway Station transfers.
- 02 bottles of packaged drinking water (500 ml) per person per day basis during travel in vehicle/s
- All currently applicable taxes

THE TOUR COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

- Tips
- All beverages including water consumed at hotels/restaurants
- Expense of personal nature like meals other than mentioned above, tips, laundry, telephone/fax calls, alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages, still & video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, airfare, airport departure tax, any insurance.
- Any airfare on Domestic sectors.
- Any other services not mentioned in the inclusions.



SPECIAL NOTES

- **Tour Costs are valid from 01 October 2021 to 20 Dec 2022 except peak dates, festival period, sold-out or blackout dates.**
- Please note that some of the sights / itinerary may change due to season, weather, national holidays and special events. Please refer to insider tips printed in brochure.
- At hotels in India standard Check-In time is 1400 Hrs and Check-Out time is 1200 hrs noon.
- Rates include only those items which are specifically mentioned in the detailed itinerary.
- Please note, the names of hotels mentioned above only indicate that our rates have been based on usage of these hotels. It is not to be construed that accommodation is confirmed at these hotels until and unless we convey the confirmations to you on receipt of your acceptance. However in the event of any of the above mentioned hotels not becoming available at the time of initiating the reservations. We shall book alternate accommodation at a similar or next best available hotel and shall pass on the difference of rates (supplement / reduction whatever applicable) to you.
- In case on any currency fluctuations or amendment in local Government taxes, or any fuel hike, we reserve the right to adjust the tour price accordingly. The due increase or decrease will be communicated accordingly.