

ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive Delhi

Arrive in Delhi where you will be met and transferred by private car to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Check in available from 1400 hrs.

Day 2 Delhi

Your morning sightseeing tour of Old Delhi will include a visit to the Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in Asia, built by the distinguished Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan. From here, proceed through the streets of old Delhi, to arrive at the Red Fort – a magical monument of red sandstone, built at the pinnacle of the Mogul empire. Complete the tour with a visit to the Raj Ghat – a simple but moving memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. Return to the hotel.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and then continue on a sightseeing tour of New Delhi. Drive past the imposing India Gate - a War Memorial Arch, the residence of the President - the Rashtrapati Bhawan, the Parliament House and other government buildings. Visit Humayun's Tomb – the first great example of a new and distinctive style, which developed to become the hallmark of the Mughal Dynasty. Also visit the Qutab Minar (Tower of Victory) – a masterpiece built to establish the might of Islam and the onset of the Muslim rule in India.

Overnight at the hotel. **[BL]**

Day 3 Delhi – Agra (200 km)

The morning is at leisure. This afternoon, you will be driven approximately 5 hours to Agra.

Agra is the quintessence of the grand Mughal era with imposing architecture. No tour to India can be complete without paying a visit to this capital of the Mughals and the city of the Taj Mahal, the world's most beloved monument.

Arrive in Agra and check in at the hotel. The rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at the hotel. **[B]**

Day 4 Agra

Highlights of your morning city tour are the Taj Mahal & the Agra Fort. The Taj Mahal is the epitome of love, built in white marble by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The monument was commissioned in 1631 and took 20,000 artisans 22 years to complete. Thereafter, you will visit the Agra Fort, an outstanding example of Mughal architecture and the seat and stronghold of the Mughal Empire over successive generations. Shah Jahan, the Taj's creator, spent the last years of his life imprisoned at the fort by his son Aurangzeb. It was built in the late 1560's by their predecessor, Akbar, with later embellishments by Jehangir, his son, and Shah Jahan, his grandson.

Afternoon at leisure for independent activities. The afternoon is at leisure for independent activities.

Overnight at the hotel. **[B]**

Day 5 Agra – Jaipur (230 km)

This morning, you will be driven approx 8 hours to Jaipur, en-route visiting Fatehpur Sikri – Akbar's abandoned capital. Located 40 km from Agra, it was built in honor of the Sufi saint, Sheikh Salim Chisti. The Mughal capital for 14 years, it was later abandoned due to paucity of water. It is made of red sandstone and combines influences from both Hindu and Mughal architecture. Other inspiring monuments in Fatehpur Sikri are the Hiran Minar, Tomb of Sheikh Salim Chisti, Birbal's House and the Diwan-i-Khas.

Late afternoon you will arrive in Jaipur and check in at the hotel.

Jaipur, known as the Pink City, is the capital state of Rajasthan. The "Pink City" label applies specifically to the old walled quarter of the Rajasthani capital, while in the northeast of the town, glorious palaces and temples, spanning centuries in an assortment of styles, are scattered throughout an otherwise predominantly urban area. Camel drawn carts are characteristic of Jaipur's passing street scene, making the city a tourist delight.

Overnight at the hotel **[B]**

Day 6 Jaipur

This morning proceed to the Amber Fort, en route halting at Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds) for a photo stop. The Hawa Mahal is a five-storied wonder with a spectacular pyramidal facade and overhanging windows with latticed screens, domes and spires. Continue on to the ancient capital of Amber to see the fabulous Amber Fort (experience an Elephant / Jeep ride along the ramparts of the fort), situated on a ridge just outside Jaipur city. Crowning the crest of a hill, the Amber Fort offers a view of Maota Lake and the historic old town located at the base of the hill, which formed the early seat of the Amber kings before the fort was made their capital. Several havelis, step wells and temples that can be seen below the fort, point to the existence of a self-sufficient township, where the Mughal emperor Akbar used to stop on his annual pilgrimage to Ajmer. Thereafter, return to the hotel.

This afternoon proceed for a half day city tour of Jaipur, beginning with the spectacular City Palace. The City Palace is a synthesis of Rajput and Mughal architectural styles, consisting of an overwhelming complex of

exquisite palaces. Visit the City Palace Museum, which has a superb collection of Rajasthani costumes, and armory of Mughals and Rajputs including swords of different shapes and sizes with chiseled handles. From here, carry on to the awe inspiring Jantar Mantar Observatory, a stone astrological and astronomical wonder built by Maharaja Jai Singh in the 18th century.

Overnight at the hotel. **[B]**

Day 7 Jaipur – Delhi (275 km)

After a morning at leisure depart for Delhi International airport or hotel of your choice in Delhi city. The tour ends on arrival at approximately 5pm. **[B]**

End of services provided by our local operators