

OM

CLASSICAL NORTH INDIA

Day 01 Arrival Delhi

Assistance & Traditional welcome on arrival in the capital of India & followed by transfer to Hotel for Overnight.

From the spacious and planned streets of New Delhi, the imperial capital of India, Delhi is perhaps one of the best examples in the world where the 'old' meets the 'new'. Strolling through the streets of Delhi the contrasts continue. You will experience the ringing bells of bicycle rickshaws, see Mercedes Benz cars driving around Eating out also offers a variety of options from a rich Mughlai curry to a wood fired pizza. On this sightseeing tour of Old and New Delhi your senses will come alive as you encounter the many sights and sounds this amazing city has to offer.

Day 02 Delhi

After breakfast meet with our executive who give briefing about your tour & hand over all your travel documents. Later start the full day tour.

Tours starts with visit of Old Delhi, the 17th century walled city of Shah Jahanabad, Visiting the great Jama Masjid, the principal mosque of Old Delhi. Built in the year 1656 AD by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, it is the largest & best known mosque in India. Later we walk down or take a rickshaw ride through Chandi Chowk, the old marketplace of Shah Jahanabad now a picturesque bazaar to reach Red Fort, built in the year 1648 by Shah Jehan.

Later you will visit New Delhi. In New Delhi you will visit sights such as the impressive Qutub Minar, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. built by Qutub-ud-Din Aibek in 1199 from sandstone and marble, Humayun's Tomb, memorial of Mughal Emperor Humayun, built in the year 1562. The complex is a World Heritage Site & the first example of this type of Mughal architecture in India., India Gate (War Memorial Arch) and Lakshminarayan Temple, a modern Hindu Temple. You will drive past the President's House, Parliament House, Government Secretariat Buildings and Connaught Place shopping centre.

Day 03 Delhi / Jaipur

Today we drive to Jaipur, The Pink city of Jaipur is the capital of the Indian State of Rajasthan, famous for its forts, palaces, lakes, sand and colorful culture. Jaipur would have been part of the Thar desert but for the Aravalli hills that cover it from one side. Overnight at Hotel.

Day 04 Jaipur

Today we take an excursion to Amber Fort, the palace complex which stands to this date was commenced under the reign of Raja Man Singh. We take an Elephant ride to reach the Fort situated on the hill, an overwhelming experience.

Later we visit the City Palace, a perfect blend of Rajasthani & Mughal architecture. The center of the palace is a seven-storied building called Chandra Palace, with fine views over the gardens & the city. Further we visit Jantar Mantar (Solar Observatory), an astronomical treasure house, with solar devices that give accurate predictions till date. We also visit Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), a five-storied structure of pink sandstone. It was built in the year 1799 so that veiled royal women could peer down the busy street market unseen by the world through its 593 stone Jharokas (mini windows).

Day 05 Jaipur / Fatehpur Sikri / Agra

Today we drive to Agra, en route we will visit Fatehpur Sikri (Ghost Capital), the political capital of India's Mughal Empire under Akbar's reign, from the year 1571 until 1585, when it was abandoned, ostensibly due to lack of water. We visit Emperor Akbar's Residential complex, Mosque & Tomb of Salim Chisti.

Further we continue drive to Agra, located on the West Bank of Yamuna, developed as a great center of architecture, art and Mughal culture. A number of forts, buildings and tombs were constructed during the 16th century, which was the peak period of Mughal glory in Agra, India. The city of Agra is one of the oldest cities in the country that is known for being home to the Taj Mahal, which is one of the Seven Wonders of the World. We find the mention of this great city as 'Agraban' in one of the oldest epics of India, Mahabharata.

On arrival check in to Hotel. Overnight at Hotel.

Day 06 : Agra

Early morning sun rise visit the Monument of Love Taj Mahal, The Mughal emperor Shah Jahan built this lovely dream in white marble as a tomb for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, later he was also buried alongside his wife in the same tomb. It took 20,000 workers to complete this monument in a period of 22 years. The white marble blocks used for the construction of this great monument was carted down all the way from Makrana in Rajasthan, India. The intricate inlay work with precious and semi-precious stones that was done on the walls of the Taj Mahal is one of the finest specimens of Mughal architecture in India. After visit return back to Hotel for breakfast Later visit other spots of this great city. Mughal ruler Akbar's tomb, Sikandra. Sikandra is located at a distance of 3 kilometers from the main Agra city. Akbar ascended the throne at the age of 13. He started building this tomb during his lifetime and his successor and son Jehangir completed this monument after he passed away. The architecture of the tomb at Sikandra is similar to that of the Taj Mahal that was constructed later. This tomb is built in the Indo-Saracenic architectural style and is an interesting place to visit during your tours. The tomb of Itmad-Ud-Daulah is another one of the important tourist destinations in Agra

. This tomb was personally designed by Itmad-Ud-Daulah in the Charbagh architectural style. The inlay work and intricate patterns on the walls of the tomb have a common theme depicting a wine flask with snakes for handles. There are several tombs inside this complex that belong to the other members of the family. In the end visit **Grat Fort of Agra**. Rest of the day is free . Overnight at Hotel.

Day 07 : Agra / Gwalior / Orchha

After breakfast drive to Orchha, en route Gwalior, The royal state of Gwalior, situated in the northernmost parts of Madhya Pradesh. Gwalior, the fort city of northern Madhya Pradesh, lives with splendor of the ancient glory that once was part of it. Fast becoming a small metropolis, Gwalior was held by the Marathas. The Scindias retained it till the Independence . The impressions that all the dynasties left behind are still evident on the walls of Gwalior. After visit continue to Orchha. On arrival check into Hotel.

Orchha some say means hidden, as the Rajput kings were pushed back from their Bundelkhand residence and they resorted to this place, there fore the name, Orchha. this small village must once have been a flourishing empire. The lost empire has left many of its impressions on this village. Situated on the banks of Betwa River , Orchha was founded by the Rajput Chieftain Rudra Pratap in the 16th century. Between 1531 to 1783 it remained the capital of the locally powerful Rajput Kingdom . The subsequent rulers after Rudra Pratap added many structures here which only enhanced the beauty of the previous ones, before finally shifting their capital to Tikamgarh.

Overnight at Hotel.

Day 08 : Orchha / Khajuraho

After breakfast visit **The Fort of Orchha** is what Orchha is all about. Though almost in ruins, still one can imagine the grandeur of the structure that it must once have been. The most notable king of Orchha was Raja Bir Singh Ju Deo. He built many palace and temples in the fort. The most important monument inside the fort is the **Jehangir Mahal** , built in tiers and is crowned by equally beautiful Chhatris on the top. The view from above is just stupendous. Built by Raja Bir Singh Ju Deo, this is the most exquisite palace of the fort. The **Raj Mahal** gives a clear picture, of the royalty with which the kings lived. **Chaturbhuj Temple. Lakshmi Narayan Temple.** The interiors are exquisitely beautiful as that of his exteriors. It contains some of the most beautiful murals and paintings of Orchha. After visit drive to the village of temples of Khajuraho. Overnight at Hotel.

Day 09 : Khajuraho / Varanasi (Flight)

After breakfast temple tour of Khajuraho. The temples dedicated to the other Hindu deities have a typical Hindu architecture. The sculptures carved outside on façade of the temple walls are intricately carved with minutest of details. The temples of Khajuraho suggest a simple Hindu theory; to attain salvation one should cross the barriers of all that

lures you. Purification of soul and mind is more important than that of body, to be nearer to God. A human has to lead a life with all the good or bad, but the ultimate pleasure is at the feet of the almighty. The Khajuraho group of monuments has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Khajuraho temples were built over a span of a hundred years, The Chandela capital was moved to Mahoba after this time, but Khajuraho continued to flourish for some time. After visit provide in time transfer to airport to connect the flight for Varanasi. Varanasi is one of the most famous Hindu pilgrimage centers of India & world's old living City... Legend says that it was the dwelling place of Lord Shiva and therefore the devotees believe that a dip in the Ganges at Varanasi washes all their sins and helps them attain salvation. In the evening **heritage walk and Evening AARTI Tour on the boat**-One can drive to the old city by Car and Take a late afternoon walk in the Old City, walking through the famous narrow lanes and view the Golden Temple from outside proceed to the Burning Ghat and sunset *Aarti Puja* from the Ganges River itself. Overnight at Hotel.

Day 10 : Varanasi

Morning boat ride tour at river Ganges, return to hotel for breakfast. Later on Proceed for sight seeing. Varanasi is an important and sacred pilgrimage center for Hindus and a major tourist attraction. It is situated on the banks of river Ganga. The word Varanasi has been derived from an ancient name meaning the city between two rivers - the Varuna and Asi, which flow in the north and south of the city. Varanasi is also known as Kashi and Benares. Varanasi, one of the ancient seats of learning in India, is a center of learning even to this date. Glorified by myth and legend and sanctified by religion, it has always attracted a large number of pilgrims and worshippers from times immemorial. Ghats: Pilgrims gather at the Ghats to have a ritual bath and worship the rising sun. The most famous ghat is the Dasashvamedh Ghat, others being Asi, Panchganga, Barnasangam and Manikarnika, Ghats.

Sarnath: 12 km from Varanasi lies Sarnath, where Lord Buddha preached his first sermon and revealed the eight fold path that leads to the attainment of inner peace, and enlightenment. Vishwanath Temple: This is one of the most sacred temples in Varanasi and is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple has skillfully been restored as the actual temple was destroyed by Mughuls. Overnight at Hotel.

Day 11: Varanasi - Delhi – Departure

Breakfast at hotel, later on transfer to domestic airport to catch the flight to Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi Transfer to Airport for onward Destination.

