

Taj Express

8 days | Starts/Ends: Delhi



Experience the richness of Indian culture on this classic tour of India's Golden Triangle. Kick off in Delhi, both old and new, explore the magnificent Taj Mahal in Agra and the stunning Pink City of Jaipur. Combine this with a night at a Maharaja's Palace and you've got the perfect 1 week Indian adventure.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Agra – visit the impressive Agra Fort and enjoy a guided tour of India's legendary Taj Mahal
- Delhi – ride on a rickshaw around Old Delhi and see highlights of the city including Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb and the India Gate monument
- Jaipur – enjoy a tour of highlights of the Pink City including the City Palace and Jantar Mantar space observatory
- Karauli – spend the night at the Maharaja's Palace Bhanwar Vilas and see the beautiful City Palace
- Amber Fort – explore the famous 16th century fortress, laid out over four levels and set on the shimmering Maota Lake

- Fatehpur Sikri – walk around the famous Mughal city, which was abandoned more than 400 years ago

What's Included

- 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- 7 nights 3-4 star and heritage hotels
- Travel by jeep to the Amber Fort in Jaipur
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 8
- Touring of Delhi, Jaipur, Agra and Karauli
- Escorted by an English-speaking Indian tour guide
- Services of English-speaking Indian specialist guides at some sites
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private A/C vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$25-35pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$75-85pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visas
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow \$3 - 7 USD per day per traveller. Tipping your tour guide is an entirely personal gesture

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Delhi

Saturday. On arrival in Delhi you'll be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel. The rest of today is free to explore India's capital at leisure. **Overnight - Delhi**

Day 2 : Old & New Delhi



Join our Welcome Meeting this morning before we enjoy a packed day of sightseeing in Old and New Delhi. Visit the UNESCO-listed Humayun's Tomb and Jama Masjid - India's oldest and largest mosque. See the eternal flame at Raj Ghat, which was the site of Gandhi's cremation and is now a place of peaceful contemplation. We also enjoy a thrilling rickshaw ride around the Chandni Chowk bazaar and explore New Delhi. Walk down the Rajpath, formerly known as the 'King's Way' and see the famous India Gate monument. This evening we enjoy a group Namaste dinner. **Overnight - Delhi (B, D)**

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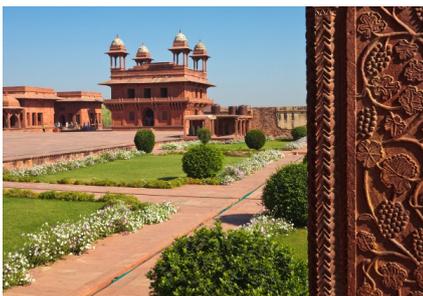
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Day 3 : Taj Mahal



Delhi - Agra. Travel to Agra today and visit the impressive walled Agra Fort. Our day continues with a tour of the legendary Taj Mahal, India's most famous site. This iconic white monument was built by the Emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century in memory of his beloved wife. It is perhaps the most extravagant symbol of love the world has ever seen and has no rival. **Overnight - Agra (B)**

Day 4 : The princely state of Karauli



Agra - Karauli. This morning we'll visit the eerie former Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri, which has laid abandoned for more than 400 years. Continue to the beautiful Palace Bhanwar Vilas in Karauli, stopping for lunch en route. The palace is our home for the night and also remains the residence of the current Maharaja of the state. Enjoy free time to explore the palace grounds and if we're lucky, we may be able to join a tour of the site led by the princess herself. The family is lovingly restoring the Karauli City Palace, which we visit later this afternoon. This evening opt to attend the evening Aarti (prayer). **Overnight - Karauli (B, L, D)**

Day 5 : Jaipur

Karauli - Jaipur. We travel to a local school this morning (if open) to meet the pupils and teachers. Our 'Change for Children'

programme operates here and any donations you can spare help make a real difference to the lives of underprivileged children. You may wish to consider bringing some educational gifts with you on your tour (see trip notes) to give out to the children - they will be greatly appreciated.

Later, we continue to the vibrant UNESCO listed Pink City of Jaipur where the rest of the day is free to explore. Perhaps catch a Bollywood movie at the Raj Mandir Cinema or explore the buzzing walled city centre - look out for monkeys scampering across the rooftops. **Overnight - Jaipur (B)**

Day 6 : Jaipur sightseeing



Enjoy an unforgettable experience early this morning with an optional balloon ride over Jaipur. Sail with the wind over the surrounding region and pass above hill-top forts and regal palaces. Later, enjoy a jeep ride to Amber Fort for a guided tour and visit a cotton weaving house for an authentic demonstration of fabric dyeing. We also tour the UNESCO-listed Jaipur City Palace and Jantar Mantar space observatory, which is home to the world's largest stone sun dial. **Overnight - Jaipur (B)**

Day 7 : Return to Delhi

Jaipur - Delhi. Return to Delhi today where the rest of the day is at leisure. Perhaps visit the impressive Akshardham - the world's largest Hindu temple. **Overnight - Delhi (B)**

Day 8 : Delhi

Saturday. Our Indian adventure comes to an end today with an included transfer to the airport.(B)

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

Jaypee Siddharth Hotel

The luxurious Jaypee Siddharth is a stunning property located just five kilometres from the New Delhi Railway Station. Guestrooms are exquisitely decorated with a blend of cream and brown tones and benefit from air conditioning and complimentary WiFi. If you have free time, guests can indulge in one of the rejuvenating treatments available at the spa, take a dip in the outdoor pool or work up an appetite in the gym. A range of cuisines are served in the various restaurants found within the hotel complex.



Hotel Jivitesh

The Jivitesh Hotel is centrally located in the heart of Karol Bagh, a popular neighbourhood of Delhi renowned for its excellent shops and vibrant street markets. The Jivitesh offers comfortable and spacious guest rooms, with modern amenities such as free WiFi, and you can be assured of a warm welcome and excellent customer service from the hotel staff. Enjoy authentic Indian vegetarian cuisine at the hotel's restaurant and take a refreshing dip in the outdoor swimming pool after a day of sightseeing in the capital.



Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Vivanta by Taj Dwarka is a modern, luxury hotel located in Dwarka, on the outskirts of New Delhi, just a 15-minute drive from the airport. Spread over 7 acres, this striking

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hotel has a unique angular design and offers 250 luxurious rooms and suites. All tastes are catered for at the hotel's multi-cuisine restaurant, while the Indus Express restaurant serves mouth-watering Punjabi cuisine. Head to the popular Tipple bar for a delicious array of heady cocktails or relax by the poolside with a refreshing smoothie from the Celsius Pool Bar. The nearby Sector 21 Metro station provides direct access to the heart of the city and after a day of sightseeing you can cool off with a refreshing dip in the outdoor pool or relax in the sauna and massage parlour.



Seven Hills Tower

The modern and stylish Seven Hills Tower hotel boasts a range of facilities and services designed to ensure the quality of each traveller's stay. The spacious guestrooms are elegantly decorated with neutral colours and fabrics covered with traditional patterns and all have excellent ensuite facilities. Guests can enjoy a dip in the rooftop pool or laze on the sun loungers before heading to the equally lofty restaurant for some mouth-watering Mughlai cuisine. The al fresco dining area offers beautiful views of the Taj Mahal, perfect for enjoying a sunset drink.



Bhanwar Vilas Palace

Built in 1938, this stunning property is the residence of the Maharaja (181st in the Royal Dynasty) and Maharani of Karauli. Both the architecture and furniture have been designed in fitting with colonial styles and the property offers a fantastic insight into the history and elegance of a bygone era. Rooms are split between deluxe rooms

and luxury suites, each including a range of modern amenities such as a mini bar, a well-appointed ensuite and a plush king-sized bed. In the evenings, guests can tuck into an array of regional specialties as well as cuisine from around the world in the hotel's restaurant. The hotel is just 7km from the nearest train station.



Mandawa Haveli

Made of pink and red sandstone, the beautiful heritage-style Mandawa Haveli is a fine example of typical Rajasthani architecture. All rooms are well appointed with intricately carved wooden beds and king-size royal portraits, with modern amenities such as free WiFi and ensuite bathrooms. Spend an evening dining on continental, Indian or Rajasthani cuisine on the outdoor terrace or request a private, candlelit dinner on the rooftop under a star-studded sky. Well located in the heart of Jaipur city on Sansar Chandra Road, this hotel is just a few minute's drive from the Palace of the Winds.



PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who would like their own room

and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement. Departure dates noted with a 'S' allow Solo travellers the comfort of a single room on this tour at no additional cost.

PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
06 Jul	USD 1,095	USD 1,645
27 Jul	USD 1,095	USD 1,645
24 Aug	USD 1,095	USD 1,095
07 Sep	USD 1,095	USD 1,645
21 Sep	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
05 Oct	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
12 Oct	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
19 Oct	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
26 Oct	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
02 Nov	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
09 Nov	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
16 Nov	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
30 Nov	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
14 Dec	USD 1,195	USD 1,195
28 Dec	USD 1,295	USD 1,845

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
04 Jan	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
18 Jan	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
01 Feb	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
15 Feb	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
29 Feb	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
07 Mar	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
21 Mar	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
28 Mar	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
04 Apr	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
11 Apr	USD 1,195	USD 1,745
25 Apr	USD 1,095	USD 1,645
09 May	USD 1,095	USD 1,645
23 May	USD 1,095	USD 1,095
06 Jun	USD 1,095	USD 1,645
27 Jun	USD 1,095	USD 1,095
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25 Jul	USD 1,095	USD 1,095
22 Aug	USD 1,095	USD 1,095
05 Sep	USD 1,095	USD 1,645

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