

# Delhi Palaces Ganges

12 days | Starts/Ends: Delhi



Explore Delhi, both old and new, tour the legendary Taj Mahal in Agra as well as the beautiful Pink City of Jaipur. Continue on to the incredible architecture in Lucknow and the beautifully colourful city of Varanasi, right on the banks of the holy Ganges.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- The Taj Mahal – discover the most iconic site in India and enjoy a guided tour at this extravagant symbol of love
- Varanasi – sail on the holy Ganges and watch the ancient tradition of religious ritual cleansing on the riverside ghats
- Lucknow - gaze at the incredible Islamic and British Raj style architecture and discover the royal splendor of this incredible city
- Delhi – tour the highlights of Old and New Delhi including Jama Masjid and the India Gate monument
- Jaipur – explore highlights of the Pink City including the City Palace and visit lofty Amber Fort
- Abhaneri – admire the impressive Chand Baori step well which climbs down 13 stories to the water's edge

- Fatehpur Sikri – walk around and explore the well-preserved former Mughal city which was abandoned 400 years ago
- Keoladeo Ghana National Park – ride on a bicycle rickshaw around this wetland reserve, home to rare bird species
- Agra – visit the lesser known but still impressive Agra Fort and explore behind its fortified walls

### What's Included

- 11 breakfasts, 2 dinners
- 11 nights - 3-4 star and heritage hotels
- 1 economy class flight - Varanasi to Delhi
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 12
- Touring of Delhi, Jaipur, Chand Baori Step Well, Agra, Lucknow and Varanasi
- Rickshaw ride in Delhi
- Bicycle rickshaw ride in Keoladeo Ghana National Park
- Sunrise boat cruise on the holy River Ganges - Varanasi
- All relevant transfers and transportation
- Escorted by an English-speaking Indian tour guide (for groups of 6 or more)
- Services of English-speaking Indian specialist guides at some sites

### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$40-50pp, paid in local currency

- Entrance Fees: USD\$95-105pp, 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. Welcome to India! On arrival in Delhi you'll be transferred from the airport to our hotel, where the rest of the day is free to relax or explore as you please. You may wish to visit Akshardham - the largest Hindu temple in the world. **Overnight - Delhi**

### Day 2 : Old & New Delhi sightseeing



Join our Welcome Meeting this morning before we enjoy a full day of sightseeing in India's capital. In Old Delhi we'll see the largest mosque in India - the impressive Jama

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updated on 21-10-2019 02:18:50

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Masjid. Continue to Humayun's Tomb and Raj Ghat, the site of Gandhi's cremation. We also enjoy a thrilling rickshaw ride around Chandni Chowk bazaar. Later we explore highlights of New Delhi including the ceremonial Rajpath and famous India Gate monument. This evening we enjoy our Namaste dinner. **Overnight - Delhi (B, D)**

## Days 3-4 : Jaipur & Amber Fort



Delhi - Jaipur. We travel to the UNESCO-listed Pink City of Jaipur on day 3 and enjoy a guided tour of the City Palace and the Jantar Mantar space observatory. This UNESCO-listed site is made up of 19 separate astrological instruments, including the world's largest stone sundial.

Early on day 4 there's the opportunity to join our Balloon Over Jaipur add-on and sail over lofty forts, temples and regal palaces in a hot air balloon, with the Pink City as your stunning backdrop. Later we explore the striking hill-top Amber Fort. Reach the site by jeep and enjoy a guided tour of the beautiful lakeside fortress. We then return to Jaipur for the evening, stopping en route at a local cotton weaving house.

**Overnight - Jaipur (B:2)**

## Day 5 : Chand Baori Step Well & Keoladeo Ghana National Park



Jaipur - Abhaneri - Bharatpur. Say goodbye to Jaipur as we travel to the village of Abhaneri, home to the impressive Chand Baori step well. This staggering site is 13 stories deep and famously starred in the hit movie 'Batman: The Dark Knight Rises'. Next we visit a local school to meet the pupils and teachers. We operate our Change for Children programme here and you may consider bringing some educational gifts from home to give out (see trip notes) - they will make a real difference to the lives of these underprivileged children.

After our school visit, we continue to our hotel in Bharatpur and explore Keoladeo Ghana National Park, a UNESCO-listed wetland reserve. The park is home to hundreds of bird species including vultures, owls, eagles and pelicans - we'll be accompanied by a guide who can identify the species for you. Enjoy a rickshaw ride around this beautiful reserve before we return to the hotel.

**Overnight - Bharatpur (B, D)**

## Day 6 : Agra Fort and the Taj Mahal



Bharatpur - Agra. Travel to Agra today, stopping en route at the city of Fatehpur Sikri, which has laid abandoned for more than

400 years. On arrival in Agra we explore the impressive Agra Fort and then discover the most famous attraction in India - the Taj Mahal. This iconic white mausoleum was constructed on the orders of Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife, who tragically died in childbirth. It remains the most extravagant symbol of love ever built and the icon of India. We enjoy a guided tour of the legendary monument. **Overnight - Agra (B)**

## Day 7 : Lucknow

Agra - Lucknow. This morning we depart for Lucknow, the capital city of Uttar Pradesh. Boasting beautiful British Raj-era architecture as well as fantastic examples of Islamic art and design, Lucknow is an enigmatic city steeped in history. This afternoon we'll tour the highlights of a city which first gained importance in 1528 with its capture by Babur, the first Mughal ruler of India. Our first stop will be to the Chota Imambara, one of the most intricate and exquisite buildings in Lucknow, it was built as a congregation hall for Shia Muslims and today houses the tombs of Muhammed Ali Shah and his family. Our next stop is the Rumi Darwaza, often referred to as the Turkish Gate. This imposing gate is a busy route through the city. We finish the day at Bara Imambara, this impressive complex was built in the 1780's and houses a mosque, a step well and a maze of corridors. **Overnight - Lucknow (B)**

## Day 8 : Lucknow

Today we further explore the city of Lucknow, heading first for La Martiniere college. The college was established in 1845 from instructions in the will of Major General Claude Martin, who left a large endowment for its construction and upkeep. Today, it educates upwards of 6,000 pupils at one time and the Constantia building has been described as 'perhaps the best-preserved colonial building in Lucknow'. Later we'll visit the remains of two British Raj-era buildings, Dilkusha Palace and the British Residency, both of which were shelled during the 1857 siege of Lucknow and today lay in ruins. The rest of the day is at leisure for you to further explore Lucknow.

**Overnight - Lucknow (B)**

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## Day 9 : Varanasi



Lucknow – Varanasi. Today we drive from Lucknow to Varanasi, one of the oldest and holiest cities on Earth. The city is also an important Hindu pilgrimage site, set on the banks of the River Ganges. **Overnight - Varanasi (B)**

## Day 10 : Boat ride on the Ganges

Early this morning we enjoy a boat ride on the holy Ganges. Enjoy the sunrise and watch the ancient religious tradition of ritual cleansing that takes place on the riverside ghats (steps). We then enjoy a guided tour of the city and you may wish to return to the banks of the Ganges at sunset for the evening ritual. **Overnight - Varanasi (B)**

## Day 11 : Return to Delhi

Varanasi - Delhi. Spend our final morning in Varanasi at leisure, before we fly to Delhi this afternoon. Your final evening in India is then free to spend as you wish. Perhaps visit the stunning Red Fort and attend its famous Sound and Light show after dark. **Overnight - Delhi (B)**

## Day 12 : Delhi

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

### HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

**Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

## 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 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.



## 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.



## 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.



## Crowne Plaza New Delhi Rohini

Located just footsteps from the nearest metro station, the Crowne Plaza New Delhi offers a beautiful blend of contemporary facilities and warm Indian hospitality. Each en-suite guestroom features traditional wood furnishings and a minibar, free WiFi and a flat screen TV. Guests can unwind in the Adya Spa which features a mix of Asian and European therapies or take a swim in the outdoor pool to escape the heat. The hotel prides itself on its range of dining options including the Spice Art restaurant, which serves delicious North Indian cuisine, and Moasic, where you'll find a range of international dishes.



## 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,

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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.



## Uday Vilas Palace

Set amongst 2 acres of landscaped gardens, the Uday Vilas Palace is a traditional hotel located right in the heart of Bharatpur city. Guest rooms are spacious and well equipped with comfortable beds and large windows. The hotel is famous for its barbecue nights and Rajasthani folklore evenings, where you will be enthralled by traditional music and dance performances. Keoladeo National Park, one of the most well-known bird sanctuaries in India, is also just a five-minute drive away.



## 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.



## Surya Hotel

Originally built in 1818 as an ancient Nepali King's Palace, the Surya Hotel has been beautifully restored to its former glory. Guestrooms are classically furnished with excellent amenities and beautiful European-style bathrooms. Meals are served in the Canton Royale Restaurant which serves up a delicious array of Indian and International cuisine. Those wanting a refreshing drink should head to the Sol Bar for cocktails, beers and other beverages. The hotel also offers traditional Henna tattoos and Indian handicrafts to purchase.



### 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 when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same gender on your tour, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

### PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
31 Aug	AUD 3,495	AUD 4,595
14 Sep	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
28 Sep	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695

### PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
12 Oct	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
25 Oct	AUD 3,695	AUD 4,795
09 Nov	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
23 Nov	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
07 Dec	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
21 Dec	AUD 3,695	AUD 4,795
28 Dec	AUD 3,695	AUD 4,795

### PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
11 Jan	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
25 Jan	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
08 Feb	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
22 Feb	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
06 Mar	AUD 3,695	AUD 4,795
14 Mar	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
28 Mar	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
11 Apr	AUD 3,695	AUD 4,795
18 Apr	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
02 May	AUD 3,495	AUD 4,595
16 May	AUD 3,495	AUD 4,595
29 Aug	AUD 3,495	AUD 4,595
12 Sep	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
26 Sep	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
10 Oct	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
24 Oct	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
07 Nov	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
12 Nov	AUD 3,695	AUD 4,795
21 Nov	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
05 Dec	AUD 3,595	AUD 4,695
19 Dec	AUD 3,695	AUD 4,795
27 Dec	AUD 3,695	AUD 4,795

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