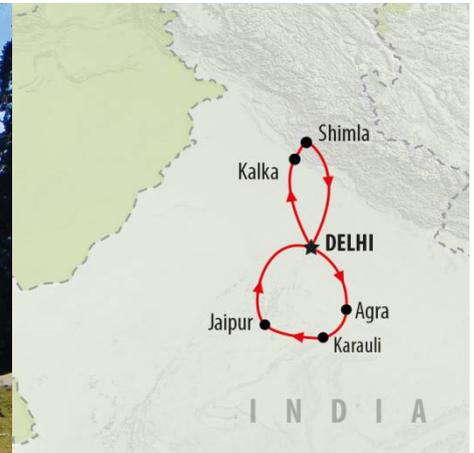


# Taj and Raj

11 Days | Starts/Ends: Delhi



*Discover the lofty peaks and breathtaking views of Shimla, India's largest hill station and the former summer capital of British India. Ride the narrow gauge railway aboard the Himalayan Queen Toy Train and explore Delhi, the Pink City of Jaipur and the legendary Taj Mahal in Agra.*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Agra – discover the legendary Taj Mahal on a guided tour and marvel at this extraordinary monument dedicated to love
- Shimla – stroll down the Mall and explore the Viceregal Lodge in this quintessentially British city at the foot of the Himalayas
- Himalayan Queen Toy Train – ride the famous journey through picturesque countryside, over bridges and through narrow tunnels to Kandaghat
- Delhi – explore the highlights of India's capital including Jama Masjid and the ceremonial Rajpath
- Karauli – stay in the beautiful Palace Bhanwar Vilas, which remains the home of the Maharaja

- Jaipur – visit the highlights of the Pink City on our tour including the beautiful City Palace and Jantar Mantar space observatory
- Amber Fort – take a jeep to this striking 16th century fortress and enjoy the pretty lakeside views
- Fatehpur Sikri – see this fantastically preserved city, which has been abandoned for more than 400 years

### What's Included

- 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- 10 nights - 3-4 star and heritage hotels
- 2 train journeys, Air-conditioned Chair Class, Delhi to Kalka and Shimla to Delhi
- Travel by jeep to the Amber Fort in Jaipur
- Touring of Delhi, Shimla, Agra, Jaipur and Karauli
- Escorted by an English-speaking Indian tour guide (for groups of 6 or more)
- Services of English-speaking Indian specialist guides at some sites
- Entrance fees to museums in Shimla
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private vehicles
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 11
- Narrow gauge Himalayan Queen Toy Train journey from Kalka to Kandaghat

### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$35-45pp, 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

Wednesday. Namaste! Welcome to Delhi. On arrival at the airport you'll be transferred to our hotel. The rest of the day is then free for you to relax or explore the bustling capital at leisure. Perhaps visit the impressive Red Fort, which gets its distinctive colour from the sandstone used in its construction. This evening we have a welcome meeting at 17:00 at the hotel to meet our guide the rest of the group. **Overnight - Delhi**

## Taj and Raj - 11 Days

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## Taj and Raj

### Day 2 : Toy Train to Kandaghat



Delhi - Kalka - Shimla. Rise early this morning as we board the Shatabdi Express train to Kalka. You then transfer independently to the Himalayan Queen Toy Train for a unique experience to Kandaghat. The 57km journey sees us travel along narrow twists and turns, through scenic countryside and numerous tunnels. Pass through forests, over bridges and stop at old, traditional stations. Arriving into Kandaghat we'll complete the journey to our hotel in Shimla by road, where the evening is at leisure. **Overnight - Shimla (B)**

### Day 3 : Shimla Sightseeing



Today we explore the city of Shimla, located 2,100m above sea level at the foot of the mighty Himalayas. Explore the famous main street - The Mall, which is lined with stately English homes and has a distinctly British feel. We also discover the Viceregal Lodge, the former residence of the British Viceroy of India. Stroll down narrow streets and explore colourful bazaars in this scenic city, surrounded by the beautiful valley and the towering mountains. **Overnight - Shimla (B)**

### Day 4 : Free time in Shimla



Shimla - Kalka - Delhi. This morning is free for you to relax or explore independently. Perhaps take a fairly easy trek to Shimla's highest point, the summit of Jakhoo Hill. The reward is panoramic views of the snow-capped mountains and remember to keep an eye out for the local monkeys as you make your way to the summit - they will try and raid any food you bring with you. Later, we board the Kalka Shatabdi Express and return to Delhi.

**Overnight - Delhi (B)**

### Day 5 : Delhi sightseeing



Today we enjoy a full day of sightseeing, taking in the highlights of Old and New Delhi. In the older part of the city we visit Humayun's Tomb and Jama Masjid - India's oldest and largest mosque. Continue to the Raj Ghat memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, where an eternal flame now burns at the site of his cremation. There's also time for an exhilarating rickshaw ride. In New Delhi we discover the ceremonial Rajpath, formerly the 'King's Way', and the India Gate monument.

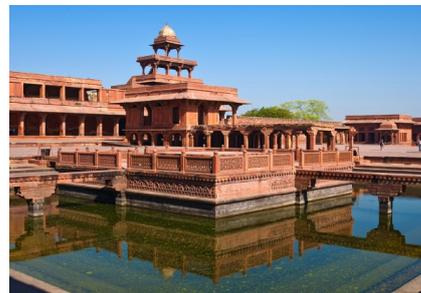
**Overnight - Delhi (B, D)**

### Day 6 : The Taj Mahal



Delhi - Agra. Say goodbye to Delhi as we travel to Agra, the former capital of the Mughal Empire from 1556 to 1648. Explore behind the fortified walls of Agra Fort and continue to India's most iconic attraction - the legendary Taj Mahal. Enjoy a guided tour of this famous white mausoleum, which was commissioned by Emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century to honour his wife, who tragically died in childbirth. The Taj Mahal remains the most extravagant monument to love ever built and has no peers. **Overnight - Agra (B)**

### Day 7 : The princely state of Karauli



Agra - Karauli. This morning we travel to the well-preserved city of Fatehpur Sikri, which was abandoned more than 400 years ago due to a lack of water. Our day continues as we travel to the beautiful Palace Bhanwar Vilas in Karauli, our home for the evening. The Maharaja and Maharani still reside here but much of the site now operates as a heritage hotel. Explore the palace grounds at leisure and if we're lucky, join a tour run by the princess herself - if the opportunity arises. Later, we visit the Karauli City Palace, which is being lovingly restored by the family. There is also an optional visit to attend the evening Aarti (prayer). **Overnight - Karauli (B, L, D)**

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## Day 8 : Jaipur

Karauli - Jaipur. Today we visit a local school to meet the pupils and teachers (if open). We operate our Change for Children programme here and you may consider bringing some educational gifts with you from home to give out to the children - they'll be much appreciated (see trip notes). After the visit, we continue to the famous UNESCO-listed, Pink City of Jaipur, where the rest of today is at leisure. You may wish to attend the showing of a Bollywood movie at the Raj Mandir cinema.

**Overnight - Jaipur (B)**

## Day 9 : Jaipur sightseeing



There is an exciting optional opportunity this morning to sail over Jaipur and its surrounding palaces, forts and countryside in a hot air balloon, with the Pink City as your stunning backdrop. Later, we travel to Amber Fort for a guided tour of its well-preserved interior. Reach the site by jeep and gaze out over Maota Lake from one of the four levels of this impressive fortress. Our tour continues with a visit to the Jaipur City Palace and the UNESCO-listed Jantar Mantar space observatory, made up of 19 separate astrological instruments. **Overnight - Jaipur (B)**

## Day 10 : Return to Delhi

Jaipur - Delhi. This morning we drive back to Delhi where you're free to explore the city as you please. Perhaps visit the striking Akshardham, which is the largest Hindu temple in the world. **Overnight - Delhi (B)**

## Day 11 : Delhi

Saturday. Our Indian adventure comes to an end today with an included departure 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.**

#### Hotel Willow Banks

Established in 1871, the Willow Banks is a colonial-style hotel boasting fantastic views of the Shimla valley and surrounding mountains. Each inviting guestroom features elegant furniture and a private balcony, alongside free WiFi, tea and coffee making facilities and a TV. As well as the gym and pool, the hotel offers a steam room and sauna, jacuzzi and Ayurvedic massages, so guests can truly relax and rejuvenate amongst the stunning mountain scenery in comfort. To top it off, the hotel features two restaurants serving a range of cuisines and refreshing beverages.



#### East Bourne Hotel

Situated on a forested hillside in the Himalayan mountains, the East Bourne is a smart and modern hotel. It was the former home of Colonel Auchenlock who later became the commander in chief of the imperial British Army. Heated guestrooms feature wooden floors and floor-to-ceiling windows, with modern amenities such as a minibar, tea and coffee making facilities and flat-screen TVs. Guests can take advantage of the fitness centre and games room or unwind in the heated indoor pool and spa. The Vertigo restaurant serves a selection of local, Thai and Mediterranean cuisine and you can enjoy a drink or two with your fellow travellers in the Zanee Bar.



#### 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.



#### 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.

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## Taj and Raj



### 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.



### Hotel Royale Residency

Situated a stone's throw away from the legendary Taj Mahal, the Royal Residency Hotel is perfectly located for anyone wanting to immerse themselves in Agra's famous monuments. Each comfortable air-conditioned room features a minibar with tea and coffee making facilities, satellite TV as well as excellent en-suite facilities. Guests can enjoy an array of flavours around the world in the multi-cuisine restaurant, or perhaps sip on a cocktail next to the outdoor pool.



### 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 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 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
12 Feb	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
26 Feb	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
04 Mar	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
18 Mar	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
25 Mar	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
01 Apr	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
08 Apr	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
22 Apr	CAD 2,495	CAD 3,705
06 May	CAD 2,495	CAD 3,705
20 May	CAD 2,495	CAD 3,705
03 Jun	CAD 2,495	CAD 3,705
24 Jun	CAD 2,495	CAD 3,705
08 Jul	CAD 2,495	CAD 3,705
22 Jul	CAD 2,495	CAD 3,705
19 Aug	CAD 2,495	CAD 3,705
02 Sep	CAD 2,495	CAD 3,705
16 Sep	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
30 Sep	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
07 Oct	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
14 Oct	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
21 Oct	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
28 Oct	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
04 Nov	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
11 Nov	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
25 Nov	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
09 Dec	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
23 Dec	CAD 2,695	CAD 3,905
30 Dec	CAD 2,695	CAD 3,905

### PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
13 Jan	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
27 Jan	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
10 Feb	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
24 Feb	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
10 Mar	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
24 Mar	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805

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# Taj and Raj

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31 Mar	CAD 2,595	CAD 3,805
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