

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1 - Arrive Delhi

You will arrive in Delhi. The airline staff would escort you through customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, to the exit at arrival terminal where an Enable Travel representative will receive you with a placard bearing your name. The representative will guide you to the awaiting vehicle, facilitating your smooth transfer to your hotel and assist with check in.

A smooth check-in would also involve one of the staff members familiarising you with the layout of the room and the amenities within the hotel premises.

A megacity with myriad faces, Delhi, the capital of India, has the allure of history and the liveliness of kitschy bazaars. A gateway to the country, today's Delhi is a potpourri of mixed cultures, mega structures, haunting antiquity and an ethereal legacy. Home to an unparalleled variety of nizami, punjabi, fusion and international cuisines, Delhi is a food lover's paradise. Swim through the numerous chowks and bylanes brimming with food vendors and stalls, restaurants and food carts that paint the air with rich aromas and delectable flavours - from the street food of North India to gourmet fare, Delhi answers to every craving with aplomb.

Unwind in the comfort of your hotel or explore your neighbourhood for the day.

Note:

Standard check in time is at 1400 hours.

Early check in is subject to availability.

**Meals included:** None (meals on your own)

Thikana Home Stay

### Day 2 - Delhi

#### Explore the city of Delhi.

Following breakfast, start a mesmerising tour of the City of Djinnns with a visit to Imperial Delhi, accompanied by your local guide. Soak in the grandiose of the city with a drive past the imposing 42 metres tall India Gate a War Memorial Arch, set amidst the sprawling gardens. With its eternal flame and the names inscribed on its arch, it affords a perfect tribute to the 82,000 soldiers of the Indian Army who died in the First World War.

Drive past the Parliament House and the Rashtrapati Bhavan (the President's Residence), a structure epitomising India's strength, democratic traditions and secular character.

Our next destination is the magnificent Tomb of Humayun, a perfect culmination of distinctly evolved Mughal architecture in the Indian subcontinent, inspiring the Taj Mahal.

This impressive structure is built on a monumental scale, grandeur of design, square garden (charbagh) setting inspired by the description of paradise in the Holy Quran, with no precedence in the Islamic world for a mausoleum such as this.

A beautiful synthesis of Persian architecture and Indian traditions, exemplified by the arched alcoves, corridors, the high double dome, the kiosks, giving it a pyramidal outline from distance. As you stand facing the tomb, visualise perfect symmetry - the cornerstone of Mughal architecture.

Run your fingers over the intricate patterns carved on the red sandstone lattice screens and feel the dexterity of the stone artisans of yore to be able to create fine masterpieces on stone - a perfect marriage of skills and simplistic tools.

We drive through the busy streets of Delhi catching a glimpse of a bustling life not ready to stop at any point of time. We visit the Qutab Minar, the leaning tower of India (it leans 2 feet off its axis) located in a lush green complex. Though, it was the first formal entry of Islamic rule in India, its various structures offers very interesting insights into its architecture.

As you touch the pillars in the Quwwat ul Islam mosque, you realise the haphazard placement of stones and columns carrying figures or patterns from Hindu temple architecture. This is indicative of the non-existence of any architectural plan preceding the construction of Qutub Minar.

Run your fingers over the calligraphic arches and feel the intricacy of the patterns carved on its various curves. India gets its first crude arch! If time permits, enjoy some shopping at the Emporio designer mall.

After a satisfying day of sightseeing, return to the hotel.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Thikana Home Stay

### **Day 3 - Delhi**

#### **Enjoy a city tour of Old Delhi.**

This morning, following a leisurely breakfast, take in the smells and sounds of Old Delhi with the visit to the magical old town.

A word of advice: before leaving your hotel, we suggest you pack your suntan lotion, sunhat, etc.

Your introduction to the grand old city begins with a short drive around the locality enveloping the Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India. Situated on a mound in the heart of the erstwhile capital of the Mughals, this impressive red sand stone structure projects beautifully into the Old-Delhi skyline with a courtyard capable of holding 25,000 devotees. Due to a huge flight of stairs, the monument is not accessible. However, after seeing the whole structure, you are not missing much inside the monument as, the mosque is quite plain inside. The main charm of the old Delhi is actually around around the monument as you get to experience all the hustle-bustle of the old city.

Later, drive pass the Red Fort. Once the residence of the Mughal Kings till 1857, the Red Fort was the pride of the Mughal Empire, built at the pinnacle of the reign. Head to the calm and serene Raj Ghat - the cremation site of

Mahatma Gandhi. Raj Ghat with its sublime expanse of lush green trees affords a perfect ode to one of the greatest souls ever. It is bound to leave you with an aftertaste of inspiration.

Proceed to visit Bangla Sahib - the Sikh Temple. Gurudwara Bangla Sahib is one of the most prominent Sikh Gurudwara, or Sikh house of worship. If you are lucky and in time, you may not only get the opportunity to visit the main prayer hall but also the community kitchen that feeds free food to a large number of people every day without any discrimination. What's more, part of the work in the kitchen is done (including cooking service and cleaning) by volunteers.

The rest of day is at leisure for independent activities. If you require us to organize transportation for you to pursue any of the optional activities, please let us know in advance.

**Meals included:** Lunch

Thikana Home Stay

#### **Day 4 - Delhi - Agra**

**Transfer from hotel in Delhi to hotel in Agra, en route visit Itmad-ud-Daulah's Tomb.**

After a hearty breakfast, It's time for a scenic and a smooth drive to explore the renowned, ancient capital city of the Mughals - Agra (a journey of 202 km / 4.5 -hour drive approx.). There are provisions along the way to stop for a cup of tea or coffee along with fairly clean washrooms.

The reservoir of epic stories and wondrous romance, Agra is enveloped in a tapestry of magic and allure. Known to the world as the city of the 'Taj Mahal', Agra is a story woven by the Mughals with their political design and artistic propensity. The architectural splendour of the mausoleums, forts and palaces is a vivid reminder of the opulence of the empire that came to shape the ethos of the region for centuries to come. From the Taj Mahal to the massive Agra Fort, Agra is rife with beauty, opulence and an unfound grace.

The charisma of times of yore greets you right at the outskirts of the city, as you stop to visit the magnificent Itmad-ud-Daulah's Tomb, popularly known as the 'Baby Taj'. Filled with gardens, mini structures and heritage monuments, this elegant tomb is the first structure of its kind to be constructed of pure marble in Mughal India - a perfect draft of the iconic Taj Mahal.

On arrival, check in to your hotel.

The rest of the day is at leisure.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Coral Tree

## **Day 5 - Agra**

### **Enjoy a visit to the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort.**

Your day begins after a sumptuous breakfast with a visit to the Taj - the epitome of marvellous Mughal architecture. Partake in the poetry of the beautiful Taj and the lost love stories that surround the mausoleum, as it sits reminiscing by the gurgling Yamuna.

In order to protect the Taj Mahal from vehicular pollution, tourist vehicles are allowed only up to the designated parking zone which is a short distance away from the Taj Mahal entrance. Here onwards, we are expected to board battery operated vehicles (golf cart / bus) to reach the main entrance of the Taj and back.

Celebrated for its structural magnificence and aesthetic beauty, symbolically, the Taj Mahal complex was conceived as a replica on earth of the house of Mumtaz in paradise.

Additionally, sound was also used to express ideas of paradise. The interior of the mausoleum has a reverberation time of 28 seconds, providing an atmosphere where the words of the Hafiz, as they prayed for the soul of Mumtaz, would linger in the air.

Truly a symphony in white marble, its magical serenity almost merges with the calmness of the river Yamuna.

Words fail us as we describe the exterior decorations of the Taj Mahal as among the finest in Mughal architecture. Worth caressing are its calligraphic panels, its abstract forms, its recessed arches, its lattice screens, vegetative motifs and passages from the Quran that comprise some of the decorative elements.

We will now head off to Agra Fort, an outstanding example of Mughal art and architecture. An impregnable military structure built by Akbar, the Agra Fort luxuriated with the elegance, lavishness and majesty of an imperial palace - a perfect synthesis of civic and military architecture. Relive the era as you step into the seat of power and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire. Absorb the glory of this imposing, red sandstone structure and visualise the fabled peacock throne, which incorporated virtually all the important gems of the imperial treasury here, as well as the beautiful Diwan-e-khas, or private Audience Hall within the fort.

As you move towards the fort entrance, be ready to hear the excited and forceful vendors hawking away cheap souvenirs.

Go back in time as you walk up the ridged ramp which was once used by royalty to enter or exit the fort on horsebacks. Put your ear to the hollow walls in the summer palace and hear voices reverberating in the room.

Experience the masterpiece of acoustics in the hall of public audience which meant the emperor was loud and clear enough for all those present there. If you are lucky, with not many people around, you could easily hear the finest of the sounds from a distance.

The rest of the day is at leisure.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Coral Tree

### **Day 6 - Agra - Jaipur**

**Transfer from hotel in Agra to hotel in Jaipur, en route visit Fatehpur Sikri.**

Following breakfast, take the scenic road from the capital of the Mughals to the capital of the Kachwaha Rajputs - Jaipur (a journey of 230 km / 7 hours approx.). As you leave Agra and embark on a long yet fascinating day of travel, the rural landscape unfolds the soul of India hidden in its villages. The contrast is indeed breathtaking dotted with thatched roofs and cow dung cakes. Yes, India still lives in its villages!

Make a stop at the deserted fort of Fatehpur Sikri, a brilliant fusion of both Hindu and Mughal architecture. Located just 40 km from Agra, it is an enchanting folly that changed the landscape of the region, a mesmerising capital city built by Akbar in honour of Sufi saint Sheikh Salim Chisti, only to be deserted within 14 years to fall to slow, poetic ruin.

Embrace and feel the delicately carved pillar at the hall of private audience - a beautiful manifestation of Akbar's secular attempt towards unification of all the religions. Visiting the Turkish queen's palace is an experience that will leave you spellbound. Standing close to the wall facing it, stretching out both your hands, feel the exquisite craftsmanship - every inch of the palace is profusely carved. Each of its stone slab has a different design such as arabesque designs on the pillars of verandah and bell shaped, floral and herring-bone carvings on the brackets supporting the roof. The dado panels depict scenes of forests and gardens. There are animal motifs and swastik patterns too.

On arrival in Jaipur, proceed for check in at your hotel.

Jaipur, one of the most enticing places in India, is nestled between mighty forts and the rugged Aravalli Hills. It is known as the 'pink city' as its prominent buildings are washed in this colour. It steeped in Rajput history and characterised by sites such as the City Palace with its astronomical observatory, Hawa Mahal and the beautiful Amber Fort, is a typical bustling capital city and a business centre with all the trappings of a modern metropolis, yet flavoured strongly with an age-old charm that never fails to surprise a traveller.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Camellia

### **Day 7 - Jaipur**

**Visit Amber and photo stop at Hawa Mahal.**

Get ready, post a luxurious breakfast, to explore the pink city. Soaked in myriad shades of pink, the plethora of heritage sites boasts of scholarly intellect, courage, chivalry and sheer extravagance.

Begin an exciting day around Amber with a photo stop at the beautiful Hawa Mahal. The Palace of Winds is a five-storey spectacle with a dazzling pyramidal facade and overhanging windows. The journey now continues on to the ancient Amber palace. Perched atop a ridge just outside Jaipur City, Amber is surrounded by fortified battlements, overlooking the Maota Lake. Built in the 17th century, it was once the seat of power before the birth of the Jaipur's City Palace. Though not long, through a winding uphill and a bit rough drive, you are taken in your car up to the drop-

off point from where you enter the main gate, which opens out into the first courtyard of the palace.

Don't be surprised if you are welcomed into the main courtyard by the beat of drums and bugle of trumpet along with the elephants as they enter the palace from the royal entrance.

As you cruise through the palace, you are likely to overhear multilingual excerpts from a multitude of local guides briefing their own guests, helping you script your own story of the monument.

Within the complex, is the Ganesh Pol, an awe-inspiring gateway painted with beautiful images of the elephant-headed god, Ganesh. An amicable synthesis of Rajput and Mughal architecture adorns the apartments, gardens and landscaping of the palace.

The rest of the day is at leisure to explore and soak in the city.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Camellia

### **Day 8 - Jaipur** **Explore the city of Jaipur.**

Spend a memorable day at exploring the royal city of Jaipur at a leisurely pace.

The day begins with a tour of the Pink City, an abode of maharajas. The highlights of the tour include a visit to sections of the City Palace a repository of Rajasthani artifacts and culture. It houses a remarkable collection of Rajasthani costumes, and armory of Mughals and Rajputs, an art gallery, intricately designed carpets, royal paraphernalia and rare astronomical works. Next, you proceed to the awe-inspiring Jantar Mantar Observatory, a stone astrological and astronomical observatory built in the 18th century. It is known for its ingenuity, this scientific 'playground' paved the way for modern astronomy.

Late in the afternoon, explore the bustling bazaar of the old city to shop for the famous Jaipuri textiles and jewellery.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Camellia

### **Day 9 - Jaipur - Delhi**

Post breakfast, a scenic drive back to Delhi (260 km/ 6½ hours approx.) allows you soak in all that you have seen and experienced in your trip across the myriad landscapes of Indian grandeur. You could take refreshment stops along the way.

On arrival, proceed to check in at your hotel.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Hotel Ibis

**Day 10 - Depart Delhi**

Breakfast at the hotel, after which you have the morning to relax.

Check out from your hotel at 1200 hours.

Today, you bid farewell to your tour, continuing onwards to your next destination.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

## Inclusions

- Accommodation at hotels mentioned or similar.
- Transfers by AC vehicle as mentioned in the itinerary.
- All excursions and sightseeing tours by AC vehicle as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Meals as specified in the itinerary.
- Services of an English speaking local guide for the sightseeing tours as per itinerary.
- Assistance of an Enable Travel representative at airports.
- All currently applicable taxes i.e. Hotel tax and Transportation tax.
- Porterage at airports - 2 pieces of baggage per person.
- Travel Insurance

## Exclusions

- Any transport to / from airport in Delhi. Your tour price starts ex Delhi.
- Air, train or bus fare from / to your originating city of stay, unless specified.
- Any meals / en route meals unless specified.
- Any additional sightseeing tours other than the mentioned in inclusions.
- Items of personal nature viz, tips, porterage, room service, laundry, mineral water, alcoholic or non alcoholic beverages, phone calls, additional sightseeing tours excursions not included in the itinerary, still or video camera fees etc.
- Any increase in fuel cost, government taxes, entrance fees, intra and interstate taxes etc, the tour price will be amended in accordance.
- Entrance fees @ INR 776 per person, payable extra over and above the tour cost.
- Any items or services not specified in the itinerary under 'HOLIDAY PRICE INCLUDES' header.
- Supplement charges applicable for long weekends and festivals.
- Any rides, safaris, boating charges, additional sightseeing tours other than the mentioned in inclusions.
- Goods and Services Tax of 5%.




**Accommodation**

**New Delhi**

3 nights

**Thikana Home Stay**

Economy Room

 Room service

@ Internet



**Agra**

2 nights

**Coral Tree**

@ Internet




**Jaipur**

3 nights

**Camellia**

Economy Room

 Bar

 Room service

 Restaurant

 Pool




**New Delhi**

1 night


**Hotel Ibis**

Economy Room

 Bar

 Room service

 Air Conditioner

 Business Center

 Restaurant

 Pool

@ Internet



**Price**

Price Validity	Category	Twin / Double	Single
22nd Mar 2018 - 30th Sep 2018	ECONOMY	INR 53,021	INR 71,936
22nd Mar 2018 - 30th Sep 2018	HERITAGE	INR 56,824	INR 79,541
22nd Mar 2018 - 30th Sep 2018	SUPERIOR	INR 57,571	INR 81,036
22nd Mar 2018 - 30th Sep 2018	DELUXE	INR 69,949	INR 1,03,843
22nd Mar 2018 - 30th Sep 2018	LUXURY	INR 1,77,340	INR 3,15,530
1st Oct 2018 - 31st Mar 2019	HERITAGE	INR 62,111	INR 85,435
1st Oct 2018 - 31st Mar 2019	ECONOMY	INR 64,974	INR 1,01,654
1st Oct 2018 - 31st Mar 2019	SUPERIOR	INR 75,474	INR 1,31,222
1st Oct 2018 - 31st Mar 2019	DELUXE	INR 98,955	INR 1,54,703
1st Oct 2018 - 31st Mar 2019	LUXURY	INR 3,59,691	INR 6,68,761