

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1 - Arrive Delhi

You will arrive at New Delhi International Airport. 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 (check-in time 1200-1400 hrs / early check-in are subject to availability).

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.

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

The Surya

### Day 2 - Delhi

#### Explore the city of Delhi.

Following breakfast, start a mesmerising tour of the City of Djinn 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-metre tall India Gate (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.

We now 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 arrive at the 13th century buff sandstone tower, the Qutab Minar. In AD 1199, Qutbu'd-Din Aibak laid the foundation of this masterpiece in stone, to which were added three more storeys by his successor and son-in-law, Shamsu'd-Din Iltutmish.

Qutub Minar, the leaning tower of India (it leans 2 feet off its axis), located ideally in the lush green complex still stands tall despite being hit several times by lightening and earthquakes. Though, it was the first formal entry of Islamic rule in India, its various structures offer 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

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### **Day 3 - Delhi**

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

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

You will be picked up by your local guide for your day's excursion. Please don't forget to pack your suntan lotion, sunhat, etc.

Your introduction to the 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 sandstone 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 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, in Delhi. 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, major part of the work in the kitchen is done (including cooking service and cleaning) by volunteers.

The afternoon is free for you to explore the city at your leisure. If you want us to provide you with transport at an additional charge, please let us know a day in advance.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

The Surya

#### **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, you're off to Agra. It's time for a scenic and smooth drive on the Yamuna Expressway to explore the renowned, ancient capital city of the Mughals - Agra (a journey of 202 km / 4.5-hr 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 and a perfect draft of the iconic Taj Mahal.

The rest of the afternoon is at leisure.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Crystal Sarovar

## **Day 5 - Agra**

### **Visit 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 & 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 afternoon is at leisure.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

Crystal Sarovar

**Day 6 - Depart Agra**

Drive back to Delhi Airport, continuing onwards to your next destination.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

## Inclusions

- Accommodation as per hotels mentioned in the itinerary.
- All transfers by air-conditioned Toyota Innova as mentioned in the itinerary.
- All excursions and sightseeing tours by air-conditioned Toyota Innova as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary.
- English speaking local guide during sightseeing at all sightseeing places.
- Assistance of an Enable Travel representative at airports.
- All currently applicable taxes, i.e. Hotel tax & Transportation tax.
- Porterage at airport - 2 pieces of baggage per person.
- Travel insurance.

## Exclusions

- 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 and 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 429/ per person payable extra over and above the tour cost.
- Any items / services not specifically mentioned in the 'Tour Price Includes' column.
- Supplement charges applicable for long weekends and festivals.
- Any rides, safaris, boating charges, additional sightseeing tours other than the mentioned in inclusions.
- Goods & Service Tax of 5%.

**Accommodation**

**New Delhi** 3 nights

**The Surya**

Deluxe Room

- Bar
- Air Conditioner
- Restaurant
- Cafe
- Room service
- Business Center
- Pool
- Gym
- Internet



**Agra** 2 nights

**Crystal Sarovar**

Deluxe Room

- Bar
- Air Conditioner
- Restaurant
- Room service
- Business Center
- Pool
- Gym
- Internet



**Price**

| Price Validity                | Category | Twin / Double | Single       |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------|--------------|
| 13th Apr 2018 - 30th Sep 2018 | ECONOMY  | INR 36,357    | INR 47,017   |
| 13th Apr 2018 - 30th Sep 2018 | SUPERIOR | INR 37,138    | INR 48,577   |
| 13th Apr 2018 - 30th Sep 2018 | HERITAGE | INR 39,965    | INR 54,232   |
| 13th Apr 2018 - 30th Sep 2018 | DELUXE   | INR 42,821    | INR 57,995   |
| 13th Apr 2018 - 30th Sep 2018 | LUXURY   | INR 1,16,731  | INR 1,97,097 |