

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)

Thikana Home Stay

Day 2 - Delhi

Explore the city of Old and New Delhi.

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

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 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

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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.

In Afternoon, we 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 lightning 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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Thikana Home Stay

Day 3 - Delhi - Agra

Transfer from hotel in Delhi to hotel in Agra, en route visit Itmad-ud-daulah.

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

Coral Tree

Day 4 - Agra

Visit Taj Mahal & 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 5 - Agra - Jaipur

Transfer from Agra to 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 kms / 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 mesmerizing 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 & 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. Stand 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.

Upon 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 it's prominent buildings are washed in this colour. Jaipur - the pink city (aka, terracotta) is steeped in Rajput history and is characterised by sites such as the City Palace with its astronomical Observatory, Hawa Mahal and the beautiful Amber Fort. It is typically a 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 6 - Jaipur

Visit Amber, en route photo stop at Hawa Mahal followed by a city tour of Jaipur.

Get ready, post a luxurious breakfast, to explore the wonderment - The pink city (oops, actually terracotta) Soaked in myriad shades of pink, the plethora of heritage sites boasts of scholarly intellect, courage, chivalry & sheer extravagance.

We head out to an exciting day around Amber and 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 & 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 & Mughal architecture adorns the apartments, gardens and landscaping of the palace.

Meals included: Breakfast

Camellia

Day 7 - Jaipur **Explore the city of Jaipur.**

Spend a memorable day at your leisure around the royal city of Jaipur.

The day begins with a tour of the Pink City, an abode of Rajahs. The highlights of the tour include a visit to sections of the City Palace- a repository of Rajasthani artifacts & culture. It houses a remarkable collection of Rajasthani costumes, and armory, an art gallery, intricately designed carpets, royal paraphernalia and rare astronomical works - It is easy to visualize the extravagant life and times of the royals. Next you proceed to the awe-inspiring Jantar Mantar, a stone astrological and astronomical Observatory built in the 18th century. Known for its ingenuity, this scientific 'play-ground' paved the way for modern astronomy. & continues to guide priests, even today, in carrying out astrological predictions that impact different spheres of life.

A surprise awaits you as you listen to your local guide, explaining the usage & accuracy of the different astronomical instruments. Who on earth can visualize time, calendar & planetary events calculation is possible with such stone structures that almost replace modern day watches? Can you envisage the measuring of celestial latitude and longitude, the zodiac signs & so on?

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

The rest of the evening is at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast

Camellia

Day 8 - Jaipur - Jodhpur

Following breakfast, drive through rustic countryside to the royal capital city of Marwar- Jodhpur (a journey of 335 kms / 7 hrs approx). On arrival, proceed for check-in to your hotel.

Enveloped in a blanket of one soothing shade, Jodhpur, also called the "Blue City" is located on the edge of the Thar Desert & is now the second largest city of Rajasthan. Cradled by the massive Mehrangarh Fort on one side, and the stately Palace of Umaid Bhawan on the other, and dotted with monuments, temples and gardens, Jodhpur is brimming with heritage and culture.

The rest of the evening is at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast

Jagat Niwas

Day 9 - Jodhpur

Visit Mehrangarh Fort followed by a city tour of Jodhpur.

After your breakfast at the hotel, the morning begins with a tour of the monumental Mehrangarh Fort. For a comfortable visit to this fort, a great idea would be to wear proper shoes or sturdy sandals and carry sunscreen, sunhat and sunglasses.

In 1459, Rao Jodha laid the foundation of what was destined to become one of the mightiest forts of all time, Mehrangarh - the citadel of the sun. Today, the beautiful palaces and dazzling period rooms of the fort have been converted into a unique museum that houses an impressive collection of elephant howdahs (seat), palanquins, armoury, paintings, turbans and much more.

Even though you will be accompanied by a local guide, you may want to take the audio tour, which is a part of your entrance ticket. The audio tour that begins with a warm welcome in the rich baritone voice of the current Maharaja of Jodhpur transports you back in time as you meander your way through the numerous corridors of medieval to the modern Indian history.

Be prepared to walk on an uneven paved pathway most of the way through the fort, right from the entrance itself. It's a reminder of the days gone by, when the horses' hooves would go clippety-clop over these rocks. As you walk up the hill, soft notes of lilting shehnai music and the heavy beating of drums reach your ears. Yes, you are now at Loha Pol (Iron Gate), the entry gate to the royal palaces.

Navigating through this majestic fort, as you reach the ramparts (the highest point of the fort), feel the freshness of the breeze hitting your face. You can actually hear the distant humming of the city below.

Later, dive into the heart of Jodhpur with a walking tour through the ancient town. This is your opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture and traditions of the area. Learn about interesting legends from the past, peep into the life of locals, and wander through narrow alleyways. The exciting walk ends at the Old Clock Tower vegetable and spice market where you're bound to make new culinary discoveries.

From here, you will be transferred back to your hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast

Jagat Niwas

Day 10 - Jodhpur - Udaipur

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Transfer from hotel in Jodhpur to hotel in Udaipur, en route visit Ranakpur Temples.

Post breakfast; embark on a picturesque drive through the rugged, wooded hills of the Arvallis to the City of Lakes - Udaipur (a journey of 280 km/ 7-hr drive approx). With an Enroute visit to Ranakpur. Nesting deep within the forests of the Aravalli's green valleys, around 90 km from Udaipur is the ancient township of Ranakpur. Boasting of some of the most exquisite Jain temples in the country, they are famous for their intricate friezes and sculptures.

A professionally designed Audio Tour of the main temple complex is worth taking. Take the opportunity of running your fingers over some of the 1,444 carved pillars to notice that no two of them are alike - vertical and intricate carvings, celestial figures, floral motifs, geometrical patterns and much more.

Upon arrival, check into your hotel.

With a poetic setting around the shores of Lake Pichola and a backdrop of gentle rolling hills, it doesn't take long to figure out why Udaipur is easily one of the most romantic cities in Rajasthan. This Venice of the East is a brilliant kaleidoscope of myriad fairytale marble palaces, narrow lanes, age-old temples and quaint havelis.

Stroll around and find out why the city is famous for its miniature paintings or why it's become the centre for performing arts and crafts.

The rest of the evening is at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast

Pahuna Haveli

Day 11 - Udaipur

Visit the City Palace followed by visit to Old City market and Saheliyon Ki Bari.

After a leisurely breakfast, we begin the day with a visit to sections of the striking City Palace Complex. Amidst blocks of pastel-colored buildings, the City Palace surfaces towards the sky through the rooftops. Lattice balconies and intricately carved windows adorn the exterior of the grand palace, while sparkling mosaic tiles and stain glass embellish its interior.

As you leave your vehicle to walk to the City Palace, you can actually feel the roughness of the ash grey stone under your feet. This is the pathway till you enter the main building. Walk past the three-arched gateway known as Tripolia to enter the first courtyard where the royals would get off their elephants, horses and camels.

Experience the low ceilinged narrow corridors that take you up the narrow winding staircases with uneven heighted steps - though ancient, they were an advance strategic mechanism of defence. Can you imagine an enemy being able to breach the palace?

Envisage the dazzling period rooms with colourful mosaic work and miniatures - the most popular art from this city.

From the palace, continue on a walk to the Old City market, when suddenly the sound of a bell resonates in your ear. You are now at the Jagdish Temple - one of the landmarks of the old city. Stop by at the temple and inhale the freshness of marigold and rose flowers. And, of course, the roadside flower vendors are always there for you to buy a handful from. Enjoy the treasures of this buzzing local market with its colourful and interesting souvenirs.

Myriad voices of vendors selling almost everything and the local street food aroma surround the air - camera batteries, memory cards, post cards, soft drinks, miniature paintings, the masala chai and the very popular, samosa!

Later in the afternoon, we visit Saheliyon Ki Bari, the Garden of the Maids of Honour, designed as a peaceful retreat outside the old city of Udaipur. Built by Maharana Sangram Singh II for the 48 girls that he received as part of his dowry, this quiet garden presents a perfect fusion of Indian and English architecture.

Away from the city humdrum, it is a good spot to enjoy the tranquillity of lush green lawns, fountains, pools, flowers, trees and some marble art.

Experience the spray of coolness, coming from its many fountains, as it caresses your face. As you stroll through its many pathways, you may just be lucky enough to deep breathe in a whiff of seasonal flowers. Your soul stirs as you listen to a bird or two tweeting away. Truly a relaxing experience!

Meals included: Breakfast

Pahuna Haveli

Day 12 - Depart Udaipur

Post breakfast, the morning is at leisure for independent activities. (Check-out from your hotel at 1200 hrs/ Late check-out is subject to availability).

You will be met by an Enable Travel representative at your hotel who will facilitate your transfer to the airport. The airline staff will further facilitate all the check in formalities right up to boarding the plane. We shall inform you in advance of the pick-up time for your departure to the airport.

Today, you bid farewell to your lovely tour, 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 and 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 at monuments and places of interest @ INR 1551 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

2 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




Jodhpur

2 nights

Jagat Niwas

Economy Room

 Air Conditioner

 Room service

@ Internet




Udaipur

2 nights

Pahuna Haveli

Superior Room

 Air Conditioner

 Room service

+++ Gym



Price

Price Validity	Category	Twin / Double	Single
26th Apr 2018 - 30th Sep 2018	HERITAGE	INR 28,311	INR 53,856
26th Apr 2018 - 30th Sep 2018	ECONOMY	INR 50,616	INR 72,308
26th Apr 2018 - 30th Sep 2018	SUPERIOR	INR 56,694	INR 85,079
26th Apr 2018 - 30th Sep 2018	DELUXE	INR 70,410	INR 1,08,295
26th Apr 2018 - 30th Sep 2018	LUXURY	INR 2,41,201	INR 4,44,321