

Taj Express

8 days | Starts/Ends: Delhi



Experience the richness of Indian culture on this classic tour of India's Golden Triangle. Kick off in Delhi, both old and new. Explore the magnificent Taj Mahal in Agra and the stunning Pink City of Jaipur. Combine this with a night at a Maharaja's Palace and you have the perfect 1 week Indian adventure.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Agra – Visit the impressive Agra Fort and enjoy a guided tour of India's legendary Taj Mahal
- Delhi – Ride on a rickshaw around Old Delhi and see highlights of the city including Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb and the India Gate monument
- Jaipur – Enjoy a tour of the highlights of the Pink City including the City Palace and Jantar Mantar space observatory
- Karauli – Spend the night at the Maharaja's Palace Bhanwar Vilas and see the beautiful City Palace
- Amber Fort – Explore the famous 16th century fortress, laid out over four levels and set on shimmering Maota Lake

- Fatehpur Sikri – Walk around the famous Mughal city abandoned more than 400 years ago

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 2 dinners
- 7 nights 3-4 star and heritage hotels
- Guided sightseeing - Delhi, Jaipur, Agra and Karauli
- Travel by jeep to beautiful Amber Fort in Jaipur
- Escorted by an English-speaking Indian tour guide (for groups of 6 or more)
- Services of English-speaking Indian specialist guides at some sites
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on days 1 and 8
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$25-35pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$75-85pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$4-7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Delhi

Saturday. On arrival in Delhi you are met at the airport and transferred to our hotel. The rest of today is free to explore India's capital at leisure before meeting the group and guide at the hotel at 18:00 for a Welcome meeting.

Overnight - Delhi

Day 2 : Old & New Delhi



This morning we enjoy a packed day of sightseeing in Old and New Delhi. Check out the UNESCO-listed Humayun's Tomb and Jama Masjid - India's oldest and largest mosque. See the eternal flame at Raj Ghat, which was the site of Gandhi's cremation and is now a place of peaceful contemplation. We also enjoy a thrilling rickshaw ride around the Chandni Chowk bazaar and explore New Delhi. Walk down the Rajpath, formerly known as the 'King's Way' and see the famous India Gate monument. This evening we enjoy a group Namaste dinner. **Overnight - Delhi (B, D)**

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Day 3 : Taj Mahal



Delhi - Agra. Travel to Agra today and visit the impressive walled Agra Fort. Our day continues with a tour of the legendary Taj Mahal, India's most famous site. This iconic white monument was built by the Emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century in memory of his beloved wife. It is perhaps the most extravagant symbol of love the world has ever seen and has no rival. **Overnight - Agra (B)**

Day 4 : The princely state of Karauli



Agra - Karauli. This morning we visit the eerie former Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri which has laid abandoned for more than 400 years. Continue to the beautiful Palace Bhanwar Vilas in Karauli, stopping for lunch en route. The palace is our home for the night and also remains the residence of the current Maharaja of the state. Enjoy free time to explore the palace grounds and if we're lucky, we may be able to join a tour of the site led by the princess herself. The family is lovingly restoring the Karauli City Palace, which we visit later this afternoon. This evening, perhaps opt to attend the evening Aarti (prayer). **Overnight - Karauli (B, L, D)**

Day 5 : Jaipur

Karauli - Jaipur. We travel to a local school this morning (if open) to meet the pupils and teachers. Our 'Change for Children'

programme operates here and any donations you can spare help make a real difference to the lives of underprivileged children. You may wish to consider bringing some educational gifts with you on your tour (see trip notes) to give out to the children - they will be greatly appreciated.

Later, we continue to the vibrant UNESCO listed Pink City of Jaipur where the rest of the day is free to explore. Perhaps catch a Bollywood movie at the Raj Mandir Cinema or explore the buzzing walled city centre - look out for monkeys scampering across the rooftops. **Overnight - Jaipur (B)**

Day 6 : Jaipur sightseeing



Enjoy an unforgettable experience early this morning with an optional balloon ride over Jaipur. Sail with the wind over the surrounding region and pass above hill-top forts and regal palaces. Later, enjoy a jeep ride to Amber Fort for a guided tour and visit a cotton weaving house for an authentic demonstration of fabric dyeing. We also tour the UNESCO-listed Jaipur City Palace and Jantar Mantar space observatory, which is home to the world's largest stone sun dial. **Overnight - Jaipur (B)**

Day 7 : Return to Delhi

Jaipur - Delhi. Return to Delhi today where the rest of the day is at leisure. Perhaps visit the impressive Akshardham - the world's largest Hindu temple. **Overnight - Delhi (B)**

Day 8 : Delhi

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

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.

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.



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. Please note: The swimming pool at the Jivitesh hotel is currently under renovation and is expected to be finished by September 2020.



HOTELS

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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 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 4 persons. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement'

is compulsory for solo travellers or if your booking party cannot reach the minimum of 2 persons in a room and the amount needs to be added to the per person price. The single supplement offers the comfort of your own room and is also available to any other person wanting their own room.

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
07 Nov	USD 1,195	USD 1,745

PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
13 Mar	USD 1,505	USD 2,055
27 Mar	USD 1,505	USD 2,055
03 Apr	USD 1,505	USD 2,055
10 Apr	USD 1,505	USD 2,055
24 Apr	USD 1,405	USD 1,955
08 May	USD 1,405	USD 1,955
22 May	USD 1,405	USD 1,955
05 Jun	USD 1,405	USD 1,955
26 Jun	USD 1,405	USD 1,955
17 Jul	USD 1,405	USD 1,955
31 Jul	USD 1,405	USD 1,955
21 Aug	USD 1,405	USD 1,955
04 Sep	USD 1,405	USD 1,955
18 Sep	USD 1,505	USD 2,055
02 Oct	USD 1,505	USD 2,055
09 Oct	USD 1,505	USD 2,055
16 Oct	USD 1,505	USD 2,055
23 Oct	USD 1,505	USD 2,055
30 Oct	USD 1,505	USD 2,055
06 Nov	USD 1,505	USD 2,055
13 Nov	USD 1,505	USD 2,055
27 Nov	USD 1,505	USD 2,055
11 Dec	USD 1,605	USD 2,155
25 Dec	USD 1,605	USD 2,155

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