

# 8 Day Introduction To India's Magnificent Culture



CUSTOM ITINERARY - YOUR DATES - FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS - 7-10 Day ITINERARY

A Rare Occasion with the Royal Family of Jaipur - Enjoy an Afternoon Elephant Polo Match at Rambagh Palace

# 8 Day Itinerary: New Delhi, Agra, Alwar & Jaipur

Along the north of India stands the Golden Triangle, a renowned route between the cities of New Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. Named for the geometric shape they form on India's map, a journey through these cities is an incredible introduction to the splendor of this nation's magnificent culture.

# Day 1 Arrival New Delhi: US – New Delhi

**Upon Arrival,** Meet your VIP Professional English-speaking Liaison Representative in the customs area. You will be escorted through customs and forward through the airport to the baggage claim area. Once there you will meet your private English-speaking Driver who will transfer you to your hotel.



Arrive to the extraordinary grounds of the ITC Maurya Hotel, a tribute to the age of the great Mauryan Dynasty (321 to 185 B.C.). This timeless structure boasts inspiring architecture in a majestic ambience.

Check-in and settle into your accommodations. The remainder of the day is at leisure for you to relax in the hotel or explore a little on your own.

**Lunch & Dinner are on your own.** See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in New Delhi.

# Day 2 New Delhi: New Delhi - Old Delhi, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb

## **Breakfast in your hotel** (included)

**After breakfast,** meet your private English=speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel to experience a full-day guided tour of Old and New Delhi.

Begin along Raj Path, a wonderfully planned boulevard with ornamental ponds and trees lining each side, and encounter the red sandstone and granite India Gate, a 42-meter-high memorial that commemorates the soldiers of the British Indian Army.



Continue past the Rastrapati Bhawan (Presidential Palace) a blend of both Mughal and Western architectural styles, before leaving New Delhi to the three-thousand-year old city of Old Delhi.



Highlights include Old Delhi's 17th century Red Fort, the prominent walled palace built by Shah Jahan, the Mughal emperor and a symbol of Indian independence, along with the Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India.

Explore the culture of this ancient part of Delhi by rickshaw. Wind through the narrow lanes of Chandini Chowk on a ride through this neighborhood, renowned for its antique, sari and



silver stores. Visit the Kinari Bazaar, New Delhi's famed Bridal market, along with its legendary Spice Market, where you will be immersed in a myriad of colorful sights and fragrant aromas of an endless variety.



Conclude the morning by discovering the art of pigeon flying by a kabootar baz. On the rooftop of his home, watch as he controls up to 50 pigeons using only a whistle, stick and a bag of seeds.

**Lunch is on your own today.** Your guide will make suggestions for dining at one of New Delhi's finest restaurants.



After lunch, visit the wonderfully-preserved Humayun's Tomb, constructed in honor of the 16th century Mughal emperor and set amongst four imperial gardens. Conclude the day at the gold-domed Sikh Gurdwara, the revered Sikh shrine and witness the closing of the Holy Book for the night. (Please note that shoes are not allowed in the temple and men and women are both requested to cover their head with a scarf or handkerchief.)

You will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure until dinner.

Dinner: In the evening, special arrangements have been made for a dinner event at one of Delhi's most acclaimed restaurants, with politicians and members of Delhi society in attendance.

# Day 3 New Delhi: New Delhi – Agra - Baby Taj, Agra Fort, Taj Mahal

## Breakfast in your hotel (included)

**After breakfast,** check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel and be transported to Agra, approximately four hours away, for an afternoon of sightseeing.

Upon arrival in Agra, you will stop for Lunch. Lunch is on your own today.



After lunch you will check into your hotel the ITC Mughal. You will enjoy a private VIP Checkin and the Concierge will accept your luggage and have it placed in your accommodations, prior to your return to the hotel.

Your half day tour of Agra will commence immediately ager check-in.



Begin with a visit to the jewel-box-in-marble minarets of Itimad-ud-Daulah's Tomb, also known as the Baby Taj. Set among a vast cruciform garden of water walks, the white-marbled Baby Taj is architecturally notable for being one of the first monuments in the Mughal style, over the traditional red-sandstone style of previous eras.



You will continue on to the western banks of the Yamuna River stands the crescent-shaped 16th century imperial Agra Fort. Surrounded by 70-foot red sandstone walls, this regal complex built by Emperor Akbar in 1565 includes a marbled, open-air Hall of Public Audience encrusted with jewels plus a myriad of royal palaces, including the arabesque Khas Mahal, built with a stream running through its interior.



At sunset, be taken to the Taj Mahal, India's celebrated monument of love, built in memory of Empress Mumtaz by her husband, Shah Jehan. As the day ends, watch how the sun transforms the breathtaking white marble monument into a rose-colored treasure.

You will be returned to your hotel after the tour.

**Dinner is on your own** this evening. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Agra.



# Day 4 Agra: Agra – Alwar - Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri, Aman Bagh



**Early Wake-up Call this morning.** Meet your private English-speaking drier & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel to see a spectacular site this morning.

Perhaps the best time of the day to visit the Taj Mahal is at sunrise. Learn about the inspiration, history, origin day viewing the monument in the pristine morning light, when it is not crowded with visitors. You will be returned to your hotel

afterwards.

Return to the ITC Mughal for breakfast (included).

**After breakfast,** check out of your hotel. Meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby for your transfer to Aman Bagh in Alwar by road, an approximate four hour drive.



suggestions for dining today.

**En route,** visit the walled city of Fatehpur Sikri, built by the great Mughal Emperor Akbar. This City of Victory was considered one of the best examples of Mughal architecture, blending the best of Hindu and Islamic traditions. With its imposing gateways, Fatehpur Sikri symbolized Akbar's secular visions of India.

Lunch is on your own today. Your Driver will offer





Uncover the history of India's once great capital, from detailed conception to subsequent decline, due to its lack of water supply. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1986, the city remains to this day a site to behold.

After your tour you will be transferred to your hotel (TBD). You will check in and settle. Afterwards, you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

**Dinner is on your own** this evening. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining.

# Day 5 Aman Bagh: Aman Bagh - Rajastjan

Early AM: Enjoy group yoga classes at the resort before breakfast.

Breakfast in your hotel (included)

**After breakfast,** check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel and be transported to Today, a private cooking class for the group has been arranged where participants are invited to learn more about Indian cuisine.



Afterwards, be transported to Bhangarh, a 17th century "ghost" city abandoned for hundreds of years, and learn about its storied history.

Check into your hotel (TBD) and settle your luggage. You will be at leisure for the remainder of the afternoon.





Then, continue on your tour of the Rajasthan countryside with an evening excursion by jeep to a nearby village to watch the cows as they are walked home along the village's roads. This is a great way to experience rural Rajasthan, meet and interact with locals, and further understand the history of the region.

## Dinner is on your own this evening.

**6 Rajastjan:** Rajastjan – Jaipur - Rambagh Palace, City Palace, Spice and Herb Market

## Breakfast in your hotel.

**After breakfast,** you will meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to Jaipur.

Depart Rajasthan for Jaipur, an approximate two-and-a-half hour trip.





**Upon arrival to the Pink City of Jaipur,** you will check-in to your hotel (TBD). Meet your Professional Local Guide in the lobby to begin your Jaipur tour.

You will start today at the City Palace, the private residence of Maharaja Bhawani Singh of Jaipur. You will have a private tour of Part of the palace that is open to the public. You will visit the featured museum, along with an observatory.

After the tour, you will enjoy lunch on your own in Jaipur. Your guide will offer suggestions for dining in Jaipur.



**After lunch,** Tour the Hawa Mahal, the Palace of the Winds, a five-story facade that overlooks the walled city's main thoroughfare. With its 953 small windows, it was historically used by the ladies of the royal household to watch the local people perform daily activities.

Next, visit Jaipur's acclaimed markets, beginning at the Spice and Herb Market, There, your guide will teach you about the various aromatic spices used in Indian cooking.





Continue to the lively Bangle and Henna market, where women will have the opportunity to have henna designed on their hands or feet.

You will be returned to your hotel where you are at leisure for the remainder of the day.

**Dinner is on your own tonight**. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for dining

recommendations for Jaipur.

# Day 7 Jaipur: Jaipur – Amber Fort – Elephant Polo

## Breakfast in your hotel.

**After breakfast,** you will meet your private English-speaking Driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your day's tours.









Encounter a sprawling complex of courtyards, halls, palaces and apartments at Amber Fort, where you will have the opportunity to view the majestic grounds from atop an elephant.





After visiting the Fort, be transferred to Rambagh Palace Elephant Polo Grounds where you will be welcomed by eight beautifully decorated elephants along with festive dancers and local musicians.

Witness an exciting polo match with elephants.

Then enjoy lunch and the opportunity to meet members of Jaipur's Royal Family.

**Adterwards**, you will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

**Dinner is on your own tonight**. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for dining recommendations for Jaipur.

Day 8 Jaipur: Jaipur – US & Home

Breakfast in your hotel.

**After breakfast,** check out of your hotel and you will meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the airport for your flight to the US & Home.

End of Services.

Ready to plan your journey? Contact us today! 678-500-9548

Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!