

# Celebraion · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

## 9 Day Introduction To India



### CUSTOM ITINERARY – YOUR DATES – FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS – 9 Day ITINERARY

A land of magnificence awaits in India, a country with unparalleled heritage and breathtaking scenery. Venture across India from New Delhi to Kokata, through the lively, sprawling spice markets, where aromatic heaps of chilies and cumin will awaken the senses. Be inspired by a wealth of captivating architecture from the iconic Taj Mahal, Emperor Shah Jahan's monument to his beloved wife, to the towering Charminar Mosque, a remarkable testimony to India's religious past.

"We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open." - Jawaharal Nehru

Walk through exquisitely preserved forts where emperors once ruled and amongst sumptuous, fragrant gardens of princely domains. Across the nation, encounter the warm spirit of the Indian people, whose remarkable nature and exceptional hospitality is as unrivaled as its glorious surroundings.

Day 1 Arrival New Delhi : US – New Delhi

[www.celebraionescapes.com](http://www.celebraionescapes.com)

678-500-9548

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## · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

- 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 at 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.

Meet the Concierge for a VIP Check-in and leave your luggage to be delivered to your accommodation.



Continue on your tour and Be introduced to New Delhi with a half-day guided bike tour through the cultural attractions of this capital city. With its handcrafted dome and ornate architecture, begin at Old Delhi's Delite Cinema, a premier theater that has showcased Bollywood and international films for over half a century.

Then venture to the nearby Khari Baoli Marg, Old Delhi's legendary Spice Market, where you will be immersed in the myriad of colorful sights and fragrant aromas of an endless variety of heaping spices at the largest market of its kind in Asia.

to the breathtaking Yumana, the River of Twins, for a short boat ride. Your morning tour concludes with a traditional Indian breakfast.

Lunch is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in New Delhi.



After lunch, visit the Akshardham Temple for an in-depth look at this remarkable complex. On the peaceful banks of the Yamuna River stands the triumphant Akshardham Temple in Delhi, a stunning 150-foot-tall complex of Rajasthani pink sandstone and Italian Carrara marble, designed according to ancient Sanskrit texts, known as the Sthapatya Shastra.

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— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

Completed in 2005, with the help of 11,000 artisans, the Akshardham represents the most important spiritual and cultural monument to be built in North India in modern times.

Wander through architecturally stunning domes, gateways and pavilions featuring sculptures of Hinduism's gods and goddesses in astounding detail. Uncover the essence of ancient India in this welcoming and modern Hindu destination.

The remainder of the day is at leisure for you to relax in the hotel or explore a little on your own.

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

## Day 2 New Delhi : [New & Old Delhi](#)

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.

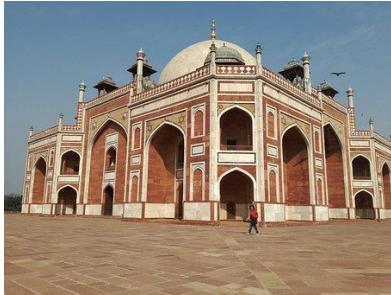
Continue past the Rastrapati Bhawan (Presidential Palace) a blend of both Mughal and Western architectural styles, before leaving New Delhi to the three-thousand-year old city of Old Delhi. Highlights include Old Delhi's 17th century Red Fort, the prominent walled palace built by Shah Jahan, the Mughal 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.

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

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —



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 : Old Delhi

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 Delhi.



Begin the morning by discovering the art of pigeon flying by a kabootar baz. Above the narrow lanes and bustling markets surrounding the majestic Jama Masjid Mosque, the noble art of pigeon flying thrives in Old Delhi. 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. Your guide will offer suggestions for lunch in the area.

After lunch, you will be transported to the Dargah Hazrat Nizamuddin neighborhood for an afternoon devoted to Sufism, the mystical version of Islam and its teachings of Ishq, or love. Walk through ancient alleys and explore monuments and sites associated with famous Sufi saints, including Nizamuddin Auliya, Amir Khusrau and Mirza Ghalib.

Your extraordinary experience concludes with a private performance of poetic Sufi music, known as a qawwali.

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— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

After your tour, you will be transported back 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 recommendations for dining in Delhi.

- **Day 4 New Delhi:** New Delhi – Agra - Agra Fort, Itimad-ud-Daulah, Padretola, Cantonment, 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 Check-in 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 after check-in.

In Agra, an architectural expert will showcase some of the most notable buildings in and around the city and explain the vast history and context surrounding those who envisioned, built and lived in these monuments.

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.

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— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —



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.

Nearby stands the jewel-box-in-marble minarets housing the tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah, also known as the Baby Taj. Set amongst a vast cruciform garden of water walks, this mausoleum is noted as one of the first monuments characterizing the new style of Mughal architecture, when it shifted from using red sandstone to white marble



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 5 Agra:** [Agra –Taj Mahal](#)

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —



Breakfast in your hotel (included)

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel for an in-depth tour of the Taj Mahal.

Experience the Taj as never before, exploring one of the world's most famous buildings with a renowned expert to understand the inspiration, history, origin, and influences behind Agra's amazing monument.

While at the Taj, learn about its myriad of design elements, including its square charbagh gardens, the main tomb, and the interior and exterior embellishments.

Be given insight into the engineers, architects, and craftsmen who labored for 22 years to make emperor Shah Jahan's vision a reality.

Study the Marble Screens carved from single pieces of marble; the decorative elements of the Taj, including Pietra Dura Calligraphy, and the tomb chamber with the cenotaphs of Mumtaz Mahal and Shah Jahan.

Lunch is on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining.

You will be returned to your hotel after the tour. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax in the hotel or explore on your own.

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

## Day 6 Agra: [Agra – Alwar - Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri, Aman Bagh](#)

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

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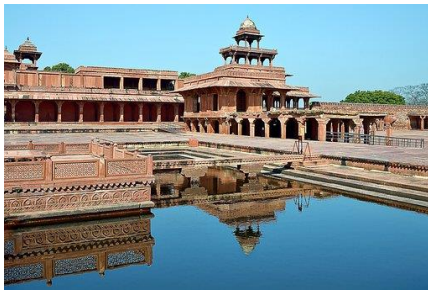
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Perhaps the best time of the day to visit the Taj Mahal is at sunrise. Learn about the inspiration, history, origin day viewing the monument in the pristine morning light, when it is not crowded with visitors. You will be returned to your hotel afterwards.

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.



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 suggestions for dining today.

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 7 Fatehpur Sikri:** [Fatehpur Sikri – Kolkata](#)



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— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —



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 Kolkata for an afternoon of sightseeing.



Along Kolkata's Hoogly River stands numerous stepped embankments, known as ghats, which serve as passageways between land and the water.

Begin a day exploring the city, once the capital of British India, by visiting the sparkling white memorial, Prinsep Ghat. This archway features Palladian entrances and fluted Ionian columns and was built in honor of the 18th century Anglo-

Indian scholar, James Prinsep.

Then sample the excellent Bengal street food at the city's popular promenade, The Strand, before taking a boat ride on the Hoogly River.

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— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

With its large moat and three-storied Burmese pagoda in red and matted golden yellow, stroll through the verdant 19th century Eden Gardens and its surrounding areas, including the largest cricket grounds in India. With its beautiful Doric frontage and covered pavilion, conclude your day tour of Kolkata at the Baboo Ghat, constructed in the 1830s.



After your tour you will be transferred to your hotel, ITC Somar Koljata. 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 8 Kolkata: [Kolkata](#)

Breakfast in your hotel (included)

After breakfast, Meet your private English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tours.



Visit the Blessed Teresa of Kolkata's Missionary of Charity, the Roman Catholic religious order founded by the late Albanian nun orphanage in 1950 to ease suffering amongst the poor, sick and dying.

The main headquarters reside in Kolkata, where she is buried in a simple, white tomb. Have the opportunity to meet with some of the children that live in her home, along with a chance to view the adjoining museum that proudly displays her signature white cotton sari and her crucifix.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will offer suggestions for dining today.

After lunch, you will visit Potters Community of Kumartuli. Ten undulating arms extend from a clay idol of Goddess Durga, the female warrior who slew the evil Mahishasur as depicted in the ancient Devi Mahatmya.

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —



Along a maze of alleys in the Kumartuli quarter of Kolkata, discover the home of more than six hundred families of clay model-makers who craft and adorn intricate statues of Durga and her children for the annual ten-day celebration, Durga Puja.

Led by an expert, navigate this densely populated area and meet the artists continuing a centuries-old tradition in honor of this heroic goddess.

After your tour you will be transferred to your hotel. 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 9 Kolkata: [Kolkata – US & Home](#)**

Breakfast in your hotel (included)

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby of your hotel for a transfer to the airport to meet 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!**

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