

Exceptional once in a life time Experience of India

"India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only." - **Mark Twain.**

Golden Triangle: Delhi – Agra – Jaipur & Fly to Mumbai

TOUR DESCRIPTION:

From the moment you get off the plane and breathe in the sweet, spicy, enchanting fragrance of the Indian air, to the moment your fairy-tale journey comes to an end, you will be amazed, inspired, and delighted by incredible India. You will hear the gentle sounds of music that will move you, the prayers that will stir you, and the voices of the warm-hearted people of India that will be ingrained in your hearts forever. Nothing can prepare you for the striking opulence of the monuments you will see, nor can you know the impact that the extraordinary grace of day to day life in India will leave on you. You will be inspired, enlightened, and educated in such an unfolding of events that India will see herself into your heart and you will feel the infusion of wonderment and joy that becomes who you are. With the combination of historic sites like Old Delhi, climb aboard a bicycle rickshaw, visit the world's best-known symbol of love...the unrivaled Taj Mahal, delight in the colorful pink city of Jaipur atop a private elephant ride to the Amber fort and much more. These are just a few of the highlights that will make your trip to India a dream adventure you will never forget.

Date	City	Accommodation	Nights
23 – 25 Dec	Delhi	The Eros New Delhi	02
25 – 26 Dec	Agra	Trident Marriott	01
26 – 28 Dec	Jaipur	Trident Marriott	02

DETAILED TOUR PROGRAM

23 DEC, TUE: ARRIVAL IN INDIA (NEW DELHI)

Welcome to Delhi, a city that bridges two different worlds. Old Delhi, once the capital of Islamic India, is a labyrinth of narrow lanes lined with crumbling Havelis and formidable

mosques. In contrast, the imperial city of New Delhi created by the British Raj is composed of spacious, tree-lined avenues and imposing government buildings.

Upon arrival, you will be greeted by an **Explore India** representative at Delhi's airport and he will escort you to your hotel.

Hotel: The Eros New Delhi

24 DEC, WED: OLD DELHI | RICKSHAW RIDE, JAMA MOSQUE & QUTAB



After your breakfast at the hotel you will start the morning tour by exploring **17th Century Old Delhi**, visit the **Jama Mosque** the royal mosque built by the Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan in 1656. We will take a **bicycle rickshaw ride** through the narrow lanes of Chandini Chowk the spine of Old Delhi that houses the spice market and jeweler's lane.

Later visit to the **house of Mahatma Gandhi**. This house is the place where Mr. Gandhi's epic life ended on 30 January 1948. Mahatma Gandhi had lived in this house from 9 September 1947 to 30 January 1948. Thus, the hallowed house treasures many memories of the last 144 days of his life. The House was acquired by the Government of India in 1971 and was converted into a National Memorial of the Father of the Nation and was opened to the public on August 15, 1973. Next, you will visit **The Sikh Temple** locally called Gurduwara Bangla Sahib. This is the most prominent Sikh Temple of worship and is known for its association with the eighth Sikh Guru and the pond inside its complex.

Then on to the UNESCO World heritage site **Humayun's Tomb**, Humayun was the second Mughal Emperor of India. The tomb was built by his widow Biga Begum in 1569-70, 14 years after his death at a cost of 1.5 million rupees. It was later used for the burial of various members of the ruling family.

Later in the evening, we will **enjoy dinner in the heart of Connaught place** one of the largest financial, commercial and business centres in New Delhi. The main commercial area of the new city, during the time of the British Raj, its environs occupy a place of pride in the city and are counted among the top heritage structures in New Delhi. It was developed as a showpiece of Lutyens' Delhi with a prominent Central Business District.

Hotel: Eros New Delhi

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

25 DEC, THU: DELHI – AGRA | TAJ MAHAL | AGRA FORT

After breakfast drive to Agra a city of the most famous Taj Mahal located on the banks of the Yamuna river. Upon Arrival in Agra check in at your hotel.



Later we will discover Agra Fort, which was built by Emperor Akbar in 1565, additions were made up until the time of his grandson Shah Jahan. It contains the hall of public and private audiences amongst many other beautiful structures.

Closer to the **sunset** we will make a visit to one of the most incredible monuments ever built in the world, **The Taj Mahal** which is a mausoleum made of white marble, the monument of love. It was built between 1631 and 1648 by order of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife. The Taj Mahal is the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage.

In the evening, **enjoy a live show**, a fascinating play that depicts the saga of love and a memorable journey into history of Taj Mahal. The drama portrays the Mughal era in the 16th century. It is series of plays depicting the true and immortal love of Shahjahan for Mumtaz Mahal, his beautiful wife; the lavish lifestyle of Mughal era; and the hardship of the artisans who worked for 22 years to create the most precious specimen of craftsmanship.

Hotel: Trident | Marriott

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

26 DEC, FRI: AGRA | TAJ MAHAL & DRIVE TO JAIPUR



After leisurely start we will drive to Jaipur, along the way we will visit one of the hidden secrets of India. The largest stepwells in the world built over a thousand years ago in the rural village of **Abhaneri**. Centuries ago, the stepwells were built in the arid zones of Rajasthan to provide water all year through.

Enjoy Lunch at Abhaneri and drive to Jaipur.

Jaipur, known all over the world as the Pink City. **The city of Jaipur** owes its names, foundation and its careful planning to the great warrior, astronomer Maharaja Jai Singh II. In 1727, with Mughal power on the wane, Jai Singh decided to move down from his hillside fortress at nearby Amber to a new site on the plains. He laid out the city, with its surrounding walls and six rectangular blocks, according to the principles of town

planning set down in Shilpa Shastra, an ancient Hindu treatise on architecture. Upon arrival check in at your hotel.

Hotel: Trident | Marriott

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

27 DEC, SAT: JAIPUR | AMBER FORT | CITY PALACE



After leisurely breakfast, enjoy an excursion to **Amber Fort**, ascent (by jeep) to the fort. Amber is the classic romantic Rajasthani Fort Palace. Its construction was started by Man Singh I in 1592, and completed by his descendent Jai Singh I. Its forbidding exterior belies an inner paradise where a beautiful fusion of Mughal and Hindu styles finds its ultimate expression.

Later visit the **City Palace** – A delightful blend of Mughal and traditional Rajasthani architecture, the City Palace sprawls over one-seventh of the area in the walled city. Next, view the **Jantar Mantar** which is the largest and the best preserved of the five observatories built by Sawai Jai Singh II in different parts of the country. This observatory, consisting of outsized astronomical instruments, is still in use. **Hawa Mahal**.

Enjoy the bazar walk with your guide in the colourful pink city of Jaipur.

In the evening, enjoy an authentic dinner experience with a cultural Rajasthani traditional dance and music.

Hotel: Trident | Marriott

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

28 DEC, SUN: JAIPUR – MUMBAI FLIGHT 6E 965 DEP: 09:10 ARR: 11:10

After early breakfast we will be transferred to Jaipur airport to board our flight to Mumbai. Upon arrival we will be transferred to cruise terminal to board your cruise.

INCLUSIONS

- Accommodation in 5 star hotels
- Escorted transfers (airport to hotel, hotel to airport)
- Meals as specified as per the program
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Local airfare from Jaipur to Mumbai
- Services of an accompanying Explore India tour director
- Air Conditioned Deluxe Volvo coach transportation throughout your trip with washroom facility (Minimum required 16)

- Unlimited Bottled water during sightseeing Tours
- Entrance fees to all the monuments
- Gratuities

IMPORTANT: Tourist visa is required for this journey

****PLEASE NOTE:** The itinerary, hotels, flights, and tours are subject to change. In the event that the travel dates coincide with religious holidays and national celebrations, some monuments and sites may be closed without prior notice or due to other unforeseen circumstances including weather conditions. The order of the tour may be changed without notice.