

# MAGIC OF INDIA

Delhi \* Udaipur \* Jodhpur \* Jaipur \* Agra \* Khajuraho \*  
Varanasi \* Delhi

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## DAY 01

## ARRIVE DELHI

BY: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

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You will arrive at New Delhi's International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, a representative will meet you as you EXIT the ARRIVALS TERMINAL building after which you would be transferred to your hotel.

Upon arrival at the hotel, proceed for check-in at the hotel.

India's capital and a major gateway to the country, contemporary Delhi is a bustling metropolis, which successfully combines in its folds - the ancient with the modern. Amidst the fast spiraling skyscrapers the remnants of a bygone time in the form of its many monuments stand as silent reminders to the region's ancient legacy. The first impressions for any visitor traveling in from the airport are of a spacious, garden city, tree-lined with a number of beautiful parks.

Overnight at the hotel

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## DAY 02

## DELHI

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After buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will proceed for full day **city tour of Old & New Delhi**.



You will first visit **Old Delhi**. The tour will begin with a visit to **Raj Ghat & Shanti Vana**, a simple memorial to Mahatma Gandhi; **drive past the Red Fort** continuing to the **Jama Masjid**, It is the largest mosque in India, accommodating up to 25,000 worshippers at one time. Designed by Shah Jahan, this grand red sandstone and white marble mosque was said to have been built by 5,000 artisans from 1644 to 1656. The broad red sandstone steps lead up to gates to the east, north and south.

After visiting Old Delhi, you will be driven to **New Delhi**, which reflects the legacy the British left behind. The division between New and Old Delhi is the division between the capitals of the

British and the Mughals respectively. The division in the walled city and New Delhi also marks the division in the life-styles. The walled city is all tradition where one will be able to glean a past life-style in all its facets, colours and spells. New Delhi in contrast, is a city trying to live up to the best of 21st century standards.

The tour to Imperial Delhi will include a visit to the **Qutub Minar**, the tallest stone tower in India. Qutub-ud-din Aibak started it in 1199. Pulling down 27 Hindu and Jain temples and using their columns erected the attached Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque also built by him. The tour also includes a drive past the imposing **India Gate**, the **Parliament building** and the **Rastrapathi Bhawan**, the President's residence.



Continue driving to **Laxmi Narayan Temple** – a Modern Hindu Temple. The Lakshmi Narayan Temple or the Birla Temple as it is popularly known enshrines Lord Vishnu – the preserver of the Hindu Trinity. The Temple is one of the major attractions of the capital city - Delhi. The divine tranquillity of the temple is interrupted only by the melodious kirtans that echoes in the sanctum sanctorum. The temple enshrines almost all the deities of the

Hindu Pantheon.

Last but not the least you will stop at Delhi's main **Shopping centre in Connaught Place** for Shopping.

Overnight at the hotel

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**DAY 03**

**DELHI – UDAIPUR**

**BY: FLIGHT**

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Early morning, a representative will transfer you to Airport in time for your flight to Udaipur.

Proposed flights – Can Change depending on availability

Departure: Delhi

at: 0545 Hours

By: 9W 709

Arrive: Udaipur

at: 0745 Hours

A representative will meet you at the airport upon arrival and transfer you to your hotel, where you will proceed straight for buffet breakfast.

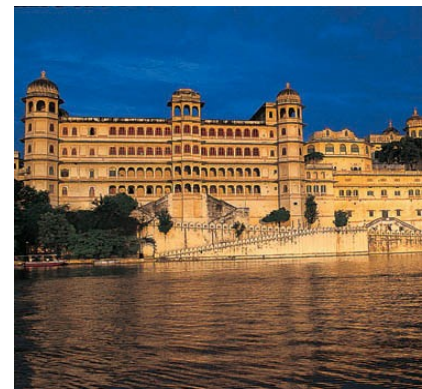
**Important Note:** Please be informed that standard check-in time is 1200 noon & early check-in is subject to availability.

Rajasthan is romantic with tales of valour and chivalry, and a history that brings to life forts and palaces and court intrigues. But Udaipur is different - an interlude for the diehard romantics. A splash of colour in colourful Rajasthan that's brighter, tinged with the tones of local legends and lores. Here are lakes that come as a surprise in sandy Rajasthan, and forested hills where wildlife still abounds. And in the lakes or by their edges are palaces straight out of fairy tales, each more beautiful than the other. There are rugged fortresses too -- Chittaurgarh and Kumbalgarh, where the history of Udaipur is told as if it were but a page from yesterday. For in Udaipur the past lives and breathes with the present.

Set on the shores of Lake Pichola and surrounded by hills, Udaipur grew in complete contrast to the harsh deserts of the rest of Rajasthan. As capital of the old Mewar State it was the only Rajput stronghold to uphold its Hindu allegiance in the face of Muslim invasion. From the late 16th century, peace brought about an era of renaissance in the arts and encouraged the building of beautiful palaces around the lake, culminating in the City Palace, one of the largest palace complexes in the world. The lake itself is a romantic setting surrounding the gleaming white Lake Palace and the Jag Mandir, a refuge of the rebel Mughal prince, Shah Jahan, soon to be the creator of the incomparable Taj Mahal.

After buffet breakfast, proceed for a **sightseeing tour of Udaipur City**, also known as the City of Sunrise

First on your sightseeing tour you will proceed for a tour of the **City Palace**, which overlooks the Lake Pichola. The City Palace was built in 1725 of granite and marble with filigreed balconies, ornate windows and craftsmanship in glass. The royal palace walls stretch over a mile on the eastern side of the lake. Within the palace is a maze of courtyards, apartments and decorated halls. The rooms are covered with frescoes, displays of royal processions, stone and glass mosaics and ornamental doors and painted windows. The marble throne in the coronation rooms was last used during the time Maharana



Sangram Singh II (1710-30) and nearby is the Sun Window installed by Maharaja Bhim Singh (1778-1828). This is the divine symbol of the house of Mewar, which traces its lineage to the Surya Vansha, descendants of the Sun. Each palace within is an outstanding creation of art. Visit the hall of public audiences, the private chambers of the royal ladies at the palace and **Sahelion-ki-Badi**.

In the afternoon, **experience the hustle bustle of the old market** at Udaipur. Walk past the spice shops, jewellery shops, utensil shops, jaggery shops, silver market, local meat and food shop. You shall walk through the areas where The Octopussy –James Bond film was shot. Later you will be taken on a **boat-ride** on the placid waters of **Lake Pichola** visiting the bathing ghats, the City Palace and the Jag Mandir.

Overnight at the hotel.

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## DAY 04

## UDAIPUR – RANAKPUR - JODHPUR

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After buffet breakfast, you will be driven from Udaipur to Jodhpur (255 KMS / 6.30 hours) **en-route visiting Ranakpur Jain Temples**, an exceptionally beautiful excursion through the rugged, wooded hills of Rajasthan to the Jain Temples of Ranakpur in the Aravalli Valley, to see one of the best complexes of Jain religion which is particularly noted for the grandiose scale of its architecture and the highly decorated ceilings, walls and 1444 different pillars. The priests of the temples did all the temple designing and their generations are still continuing the work.

Later continue your journey to Jodhpur and upon arrival, check-in at your hotel.

The old city of Jodhpur is surrounded by a wall 10km long, which was built about a century after the city was founded. From the fort you can clearly see where the old city ends and the new begins. The old city is fascinating jungle of winding streets of great interest to wander around. Eight gates lead out from the walled city. It's one of the more interesting cities in India and those baggy-tight horse riding trousers, jodhpurs, took their name from this locale.

The Mehrangarh Fort is sprawled across a 125-meter high hill and is the most impressive and formidable fort in the fort-studded Rajasthan. On the wall adjacent to the Lahapol or “Iron Gate” are 15 handprints, the sati marks of the widows of Maharaja Man Singh who threw themselves upon his funeral pyre in 1843. Inside the fort, which is still run by the Maharaja of Jodhpur, there is a whole series of courtyards and palaces.

Later visit the **Mehrangarh Fort (citadel of the Sun)** that evokes the very spirit of the Rathores, the ruling local Rajput clan. Visit its various palaces with their delicate friezes and respective museums, displaying treasures of the royal family.

North of Meherangarh Fort, and connected to it by road, **Jaswant Thanda** is a pillared marble memorial to the popular ruler Jaswant Singh II (1878-95), who



purged Jodhpur of dacoits, initiated irrigation systems and boosted the economy. The cenotaphs of members of the royal family who have died since Jaswant are close by his memorial; those who preceded him are remembered by *chhatris* at Mandor. This south-facing spot is also the best place from which to photograph the fort, looming above the sheer rocky Meherangarh plateau.

Return to the hotel after your tour.

Overnight at the hotel.

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## DAY 05 JODHPUR - JAIPUR

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After buffet breakfast at hotel, you will be driven to Jaipur (332 Kms / 8 hours), upon arrival, proceed for check-in at your hotel.

Rajasthan's kingdoms are an enduring legacy to India's history. A land endowed with invincible forts, magnificent palaces and waves of sand dunes and serene lakes. No other region in the country assembles the many paradoxes of India, as does the desert land of Rajasthan. By far it is the most colourful region in India.

Jaipur's past is never too far from hand. The city of victory, Jaipur presides over the fascinating desert state and its people: surrounded by rugged hills, each crowned by a formidable fort; and beautiful palaces, mansions and gardens dotted throughout its precincts. The palaces and forts of yesteryear that were witness to royal processions and splendour are now living monuments, accepted quite naturally into the lifestyles of the people of the "pink city". Except for the busy traffic of bicycles, cars and buses, little seems to have changed. There is a timeless quality to Jaipur's bazaars and its people. With its historical past, Jaipur revives legends of the ancient Rajputs. The dresses of the women and the turbans of the men add colour to this fascinating city.

Afternoon is free for leisure or shopping. Jaipur is great for purchases of jewellery and clothing

Overnight at the hotel

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## DAY 06 JAIPUR

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After buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will be driven just outside Jaipur to the **ancient capital of Amber** to see the fabulous Amber Fort. Maharaja Mansingh, Mughal Emperor Akbar's most successful General, started the construction of Amber Fort in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Before the City Palace was constructed in Jaipur, Amber was the seat of power. The fort is surrounded by fortified battlements and overlooks the Moat Lake. Ruins and remains are spread over the Aravalli hills and sprawling crenulated walls lattice the surrounding area.



**An elephant (alternatively by jeeps)** will spare you the trouble of reaching up to the fortress. Once on top, stroll through the sprawling complex of courtyards and halls.



Many of the rooms have delightful wall paintings, with precious stones and mirrors inlaid in the walls. Most fascinating, perhaps, is the Sheesh Mahal (hall of mirrors) where a single lamplight is reflected in the many mirrors, lighting up the room.

En-route to Amber you will stop and see the '**Palace of Winds**', otherwise known as Hawa Mahal. It is really an elaborate facade behind which the ladies of the court used to watch the daily goings on in the street below. It is extremely intricate in its pink sandstone carving. The cool wind blows through its facade of windows and latticed screens through which the queens of the court once viewed the streets of the city.



In the afternoon, you will visit the **city of Jaipur**. Among the highlights to be seen while touring Jaipur include the **City Palace**, which is an overwhelming complex of exquisite palaces, gardens and courtyards, decorative art and carved doorways. The palace museum houses collections of rare manuscripts, armoury, costumes, carpets and miniature paintings. Walk to the adjacent **Jantar Mantar or Astronomical Observatory** made by the Maharaja of Jaipur, built in 1726 and is one of the five such astronomical wonders built by Sawai Jai Singh and makes accurate predictions even to this day. You will also have the opportunity to wander about the local markets. Return to your hotel after the sightseeing tour of Jaipur City.

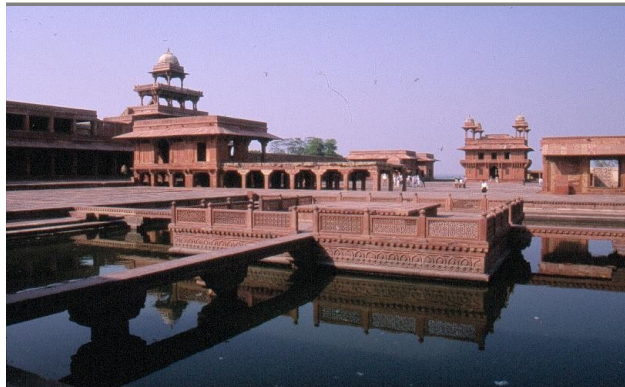
Return to your hotel after the sightseeing tour.

Overnight at the hotel.

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## DAY 07 JAIPUR – FATEHPUR SIKRI - AGRA

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After buffet breakfast at hotel, you will be driven to Agra (235 Kms / 6 hours), en-route **visiting Fatehpur Sikri**, the deserted red sandstone city, built by the Great Mughal Emperor Akbar as his capital and palace in the late 16th century. It was abandoned soon after it was built when the local wells went dry and it remains today in much the same condition that it was over 300 years ago. It is complete with

palaces and mosques and used to be a town larger than London when it was originally constructed. Now it is an extraordinary place to wander around with its buildings in near perfect condition.

After your visit, continue your drive to Agra and upon arrival, proceed for check-in at your hotel.

Agra in terms of ambiance is still associated with its Mughal period. The Mughals besides being great rulers were also great builders and they preserved their best architectural wonders for Agra & its neighbourhood. It has many wonderful monuments and the Taj Mahal, the greatest of them all, is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture at its best. The massive but elegant Agra Fort, the magnificent Taj, are each unique and outstanding. Their architectural genius can also be seen in the forts, palaces and aesthetically laid out gardens - each one a silent witness to a grand style of a golden era.

Great empires have flourished in Agra and then grown to engulf the whole country. Great battles were fought on this soil, as can be gathered from its chequered history. It's line-up of monuments today stand mute testimony to the splendour of a bygone era and the visionary far-sightedness of the many monarchs who once ruled different parts of this state.

As visitors walk down the narrow, bustling streets, they can't help but wonder if the man contentedly smoking a hookah is a direct descendant of some bygone Mughal. Even the majority of the buildings in the modern areas of town such as the cantonment, date back over a hundred years.



In the Afternoon, you will be taken for **tour of the Taj Mahal (Closed on Friday's.)** Midway **Tonga's "horse carriages"** would be waiting for you and will drop you at the gates of the Taj Mahal, taking 22 years and 20,000 men to build, the white marble was quarried 200 miles away and was transported to the site by a fleet of 1000 elephants. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an expression of his love for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, in mid 17th century, the Taj Mahal is truly one of

the wonders of the world.

Return to the hotel after the sightseeing tour.

Overnight at the hotel

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**DAY 08**

**AGRA - JHANSI – KHAJURAHOBY: TRAIN / SURFACE**

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After an early buffet breakfast at the hotel, a representative will transfer you to the Railway Station in time for your train to Jhansi.

Departure: Agra

at: 0810 Hours

By: Shatabdi Express

Arrive: Jhansi

at: 1025 Hours

A representative will meet you at the Jhansi Station, after which you will be driven from Jhansi railway station to Khajuraho (200 KMS / 5 Hours)

In the realm of architecture, Khajuraho holds a unique position. The temples here were built between 950 and 1050 A.D. by the Chandela dynasty, who claims descent from the Moon God and a mortal, Hemavati, with whom the god fell in love.

Most of the temples of the north were destroyed by invaders, but Khajuraho escaped and stands today as an island of beauty. The Chandelas built 85 temples and some 22 survive today. Architecturally the temples have some unique features. They stand on high platforms and do not have customary enclosures. Each temple has a large number of spires in ascending order representing man's aspirations towards spiritual goals. They are ornately carved, with each frieze and sculpture depicting the genius of the men who carved it and the king who inspired them. Although famous for erotic depictions, these form only a small part of the wealth of the site. Taken in totality, the sculptures of Khajuraho depict the everyday life of the people and the court in the 10th and 11th centuries.

Khajuraho is not something that can be described in words; it has to be experienced.

Overnight at the hotel

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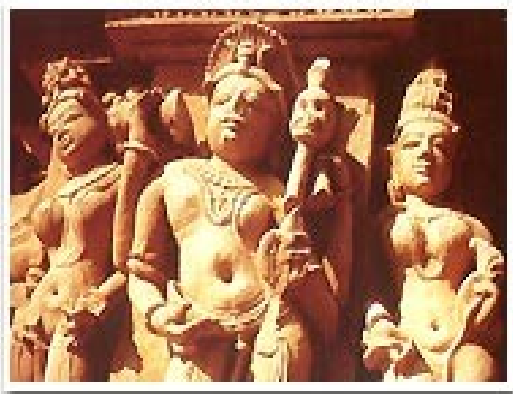
**DAY 09**

**KHAJURAHOO – VARANASI**

**BY: FLIGHT**

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After buffet breakfast at the hotel, visit the **Chandela Temple Complex**. The tour of Khajuraho this morning concentrates on the famous erotic temples, which represent some of the finest examples of temple architecture in Northern India. The remote location of Khajuraho meant that the temples were unharmed by Muslim invaders and as a result, the intricately fine carvings are in very good condition and are said to represent life in heaven.



They were built during the mighty Chandela dynasty, the majority were constructed in a sudden burst of creative and religious energy, between the mid-10th and 11th centuries. After ruling for about 500 years the Chandela dynasty fell to the might of Islam and consequently the religious centre of Khajuraho was abandoned. The temples remain as a reminder of a society that believed in the full enjoyment of life, with all the senses being a path to nirvana. Of the eighty-five original temples only 22 remain, but many are in very good condition. You visit the **Kandariya Mahadeva, the Chatrabhuj, Parswanath and Ghantai Temples**, each remarkable for its beautiful design and architecture.



Later in time in the afternoon, a representative will transfer you to Airport to board your flight to Varanasi.

Proposed flights – Can Change depending on availability

Departure: Khajuraho at: 1330 Hours By: 9W 724

Arrive: Varanasi at: 1410 Hours

A representative will meet you upon arrival at Varanasi airport & transfer you to your hotel. Arrive and proceed for check in.

The antiquity of Varanasi is veiled in immortal times and has been the centre of religion, learning and civilization since ages. It has an endearing universal mystique, which has to be experienced to be understood. The city gets its inherent charm from the location as it's situated on west side of the Holy Ganges. The principal attraction being the bathing ghats that are always bustling with life at any given time of the day.

There is no Indian attraction like Varanasi. There are no architectural splendours, no exquisitely carved palaces or impregnable forts, and yet the city has an inherent charm. Situated on the west bank from the riverbank ghats to a winding maze of picturesque alleys overlooking tall houses alongside, dotted with temples. It is a fascinating area to wander around.

Overnight at the hotel

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**DAY 10**

**VARANASI – DELHI**

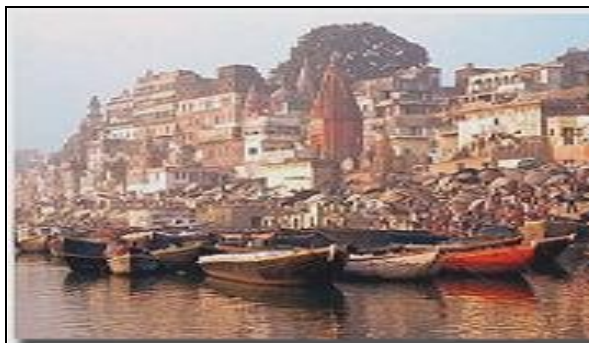
**BY: FLIGHT**

**DEPARTURE: DELHI**

**BY: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT**

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Early morning **boat-ride** in the holy River Ganges and see the various Ghats (the banks of the river) with people ritually cleansing their sins' in hope of attaining eternal salvation or ""Nirvana"". This will be the backdrop to your early morning boat ride when the river is bathed in a magical light and pilgrims come to perform puja to the rising sun.



Return to the hotel for breakfast. After breakfast enjoy city tour of Varanasi, including a visit to **Vishwanath Temple**, the **Benaras Hindu University** and the **Bharat Mata Temple**.

**Viswanath Temple** Dedicated to Lord Shiva; this temple is the most sacred shrine in Varanasi. The original temple was destroyed by the Mughal Emperor, Aurangzeb which was later restored by Rani Ahilyabai of Indore in the 18th century. The Gold plating of the dome was done during the 19th century by Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab. Foreigner's entry inside the temple is restricted.

**Banaras Hindu University** was founded by Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya it is considered to be the largest residential university in Asia. Within the university campus, Vishwanath Temple and Bharat Kala Kendra (Museum) are well worth a visit.

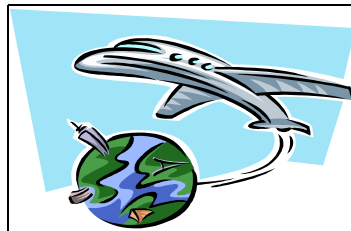
Later in the afternoon, a representative will transfer you to airport to board flight for Delhi:

Proposed flights – Can Change depending on availability

Departure: Varanasi at: 1440 Hours By: 9W 724

Arrive: Delhi at: 1600 Hours

Upon arrival you will be met by a representative who will transfer you to international airport in time for your flight back home.



\*\*\*\*\* **END OF TOUR** \*\*\*\*\*