

Romancing the Taj

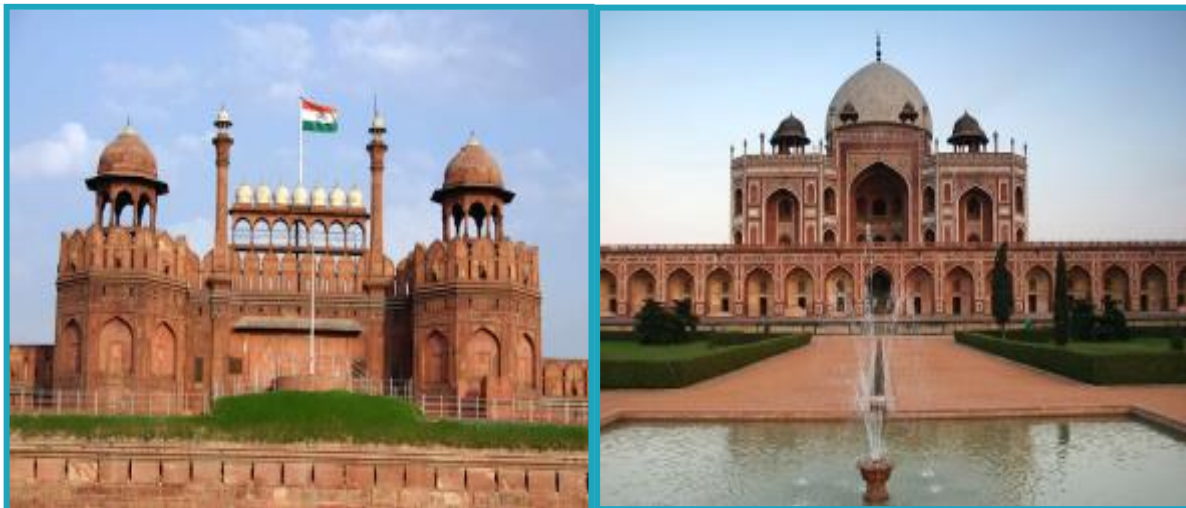
DAY 01: ARRIVE DELHI

Today early morning you will arrive at Delhi's International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, your representative will meet you as you EXIT the ARRIVALS TERMINAL building and transfer you to your hotel. Where you will proceed for check-in

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.

Today rest of the day is free for Independent activities.

Overnight at the Hotel, New Delhi



DAY 02: DELHI

Breakfast at the Hotel

Proceed for Full day combined city tour of **Old and New Delhi**. In Old Delhi you will visit the 17th century **Jama Masjid** and walk through the narrow, winding lanes of colourful and bustling **Chandni Chowk**. You have the option of taking a rickshaw ride through these bazaars. Also visit the Mughal Empire's most opulent fort, the **Red Fort** for a photo stop. Visit **Raj Ghat** where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated.

Afternoon proceed for New Delhi. Visit **Presidential Palace**, the one-time imperial residence of the British viceroys; the **India Gate**, a memorial raised in Honour of the Indian soldiers martyred during the Afghan war and a drive along the Rajpath past the Parliament House and secretarial buildings. Visit **Qutab Minar**, the 12th century tower of victory built by a slave king and prototype of all minars (towers) in India. Also visit the 16th century **Humayun's tomb**, a precursor to the Taj Mahal.

Overnight at the Hotel, New Delhi

DAY 03: DELHI - AGRA

[Surface – 204 Kms / 04 Hrs]

Breakfast at the Hotel & after that you will be driven to Agra. Upon arrival in Agra you will check-in at your hotel and our representative will assist you to complete your check-in formalities.

Agra came into limelight during the rule of Afghan King Sikandar Lodhi - who had made it the capital of his empire. Later in 1526 A.D., the Mughal Emperor Babar took upon himself the task for rendering Agra, a unique character and beauty of its own. The next few hundred years of Agra witnessed the rise of the pomp and pageantry of three great Mughal monarchs - Emperor Akbar, Jehangir and Shahjahan. In modern times, the city of Agra is a thriving carpet industry where you can also find leather workers; sandstone and marble sculptors, some of whom claim to be direct descendants of the craftsmen who had helped build the Taj Mahal.

Overnight at the Hotel, Agra



DAY 04: AGRA

Morning, proceed to visit Taj Mahal, (Closed on Fridays). On the inner walls, jewel-like stones create beautiful designs in white marble. The Mughals perfected the art of embedding semi-precious stones into marble and the Taj is the finest example of this; it is a special process called pietra dura. It begins with a marble plate, varying in size. Then jewels are sliced paper thin and embedded in the marble with such precision that the joints are invisible to the naked eye.

Afternoon you will proceed to visit Agra Fort, where the ageing Emperor Shah Jahan, imprisoned by his son, watched from a distance the fulfillment of his life's dream-the building of the Taj Mahal in memory of his beloved wife.

You have an option to visit the Taj Mahal at your own at the time of sunset.

Overnight at the Hotel, Agra

DAY 05: AGRA – JAIPUR

[Surface – 232 Kms / 05 Hrs]

Breakfast is at the Hotel.

After breakfast you will drive to Jaipur enroute you will visit **Fatehpur Sikri**.

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.

On arrival in Jaipur, proceed to check in at your hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight at the Hotel, Jaipur



DAY 06: JAIPUR

Following buffet breakfast you will proceed to visit the 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 17th 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 Fort 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.

Afternoon, you will visit 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.

Jaipur's Jantar Mantar is the most famous of five observatories built by Sawai Jai Singh in India. Jai Singh was a great admirer of progresses and research made in the fields of science and technology, but he was passionate about astronomy. There is a very interesting story behind the construction of this observatory, considered as the largest stone observatory in the world. Sawai Jai Singh sent his emissaries to all parts of the world before commencing the construction of this observatory. The emissaries returned with many manuals on astronomy containing cutting-edge technological information. One of these manuals was a copy of La Hire's "Tables". The king ordered the observatory to be built according to the details contained in this manual. When the construction ended, for the astonishment of the king and others, the observatory was 20 seconds more accurate than the one mentioned in "Table".

Overnight at Hotel, Jaipur

DAY 07: JAIPUR - GURGAON
mins]

[Surface – 250 Kms / 05 Hrs.30

Breakfast is at the Hotel.

After breakfast you will be driven back to Delhi. The rest of the day is at leisure for independent activities and last minute shopping in Delhi.



Taj Tour
2269 Riverside Drive
Ottawa, ON, K1H 8K2
Tel. 416.840.3479 1.800.304.8714
Fax. 1.866.570.1885
Sales@tajtour.com

Overnight at Hotel, Gurgaon

DAY 08: DEPART GURGAON

In time our representative will meet you and assist you to transfer the airport for your flight back home.

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